CULTIVATING A TASTE FOR TUNISIA, PG 17

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Celebrity pg 34

Biel drinks up for beau

Omar Khadr hearing to proceed, says judge

COURT The judge presiding over Omar Khadr's military commission proceedings issued an order yesterday that the hearings, abruptly halted by U.S. President Barack Obama in January, are to go ahead on June 1.

The order from Col. Patrick Parrish came on the eve of a UN Security Council debate on the issue of child soldiers, an event Khadr's lawyers planned to piggyback on with a news conference highlighting his plight.

"The commission is setting 1 June, 2009 as the next hearing date," Parrish wrote. "This notice will give all parties sufficient time to prepare."

Khadr, now 22, is accused of throwing a hand grenade that killed an American special forces soldier following a four-hour firefight in Afghanistan in July 2002.

The Toronto-born Khadr was 15 at the time.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GUILLERMO ARIAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seven-month-old Alexa Zuniga wears a surgical mask at the airport in Tijuana yesterday. At least five people have been hospitalized with swine flu in the United States and deaths are likely, a U.S. health official said. In Mexico, more than 150 deaths were believed to have been caused by swine flu. In Canada, 13 cases have been confirmed. More coverage, pgs 3, 6, 8

Swine flu is here

Epidemic reaches Ontario with 4 confirmed cases

The number of confirmed cases of swine flu in Canada has grown to 13 as health authorities in Alberta and Ontario reported their first outbreaks of the virus.

Seven new cases were reported yesterday: Four in Ontario, two in Alberta, and one in British Columbia.

The new cases, like Canada's previous ones, are all linked to people who have been to Mexico, or travellers who have infected family and friends.

Canadian scientists at the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg, which helped identify the new flu virus last week, are slowly learning more about the Mexican mystery bug.

It appears to have an incubation period of between two and seven days.

There's also evidence it can spread to a so-called second and third generation, beyond the person initially infected, as the virus infects a second person who then gives it to a third person.

The World Health Organization says it may raise the pandemic alert to Phase 5 on its six-point scale — Phase 6 being a full pandemic — if it finds evidence the swine flu virus can pass beyond second generation.

Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq said while the new cases reported yesterday are all mild, the spread of the virus heightens the risk of a pandemic.

Canada's top medical officer, David Butler-Jones, said it's too soon to know how the virus will spread.

"Nature is always inventive, and it can go in either direction," he said.

Butler-Jones noted that there is no evidence the swine flu can be transmitted through food products. He repeated that the best way to prevent the spread of the flu is to wash hands and cover up coughs and sneezes.

He also advised people to call the public health line at 1-800-454-8302 if they want more information.

Aglukkaq said the government will continue with its six-point plan to deal with the threat, including: Surveillance, international co-operation, research on vaccine development, stockpiles of anti-viral medication, health services, and communications.

The minister said she has instructed customs officers to begin "enhanced screening" of air travellers from Mexico.

In Ontario, the acting chief medical officer of health said all four cases there were considered mild and the individuals are recovering at their homes in the regions just outside Toronto.

Canada has joined the list of countries advising against travel to Mexico because of the outbreak.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The latest swine flu developments

- Death toll: 152, most of them suspected cases, all in Mexico.
- Confirmed cases in Canada: 13 (four in Nova Scotia, four in Ontario, three in B.C., two in Alberta)
- Mexico cases: 1,995 suspected and confirmed cases.
- Confirmed cases elsewhere: 66 in U.S. (45 in New York City, 11 in California, six in Texas, two in Kansas and one in Ohio, one in Indiana); 11 in New Zealand, two in Spain, two in Scotland, two in Israel.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

- For an interactive map of swine flu cases worldwide, visit metronews.ca.
- For the latest updates on the swine flu epidemic, visit metronews.ca.

Taxpayer ownership in GM possibility

MANUFACTURING Ontario taxpayers could join the American government as part-owners of General Motors, Premier Dalton McGuinty suggested yesterday in reaction to the troubled automaker's massive restructuring plan.

GM could be majority-owned by the U.S. government under the plan unveiled Monday, which included an offer to swap $27 billion US in bond debt for GM stock and the shutting-down of the Pontiac brand.

McGuinty

The Ontario government would be willing to consider taking an equity stake in GM to help the company survive, McGuinty said.

"I think we've got to be very pragmatic about the role that we might be called upon to play when it comes to the auto sector and putting one company or the other on a solid footing," he said.

"I just don't think we can enter into this with any preconceptions or bias."

McGuinty said the province is trying to determine exactly what it needs to do to make the industry viable so Ontario can maintain its 20 per cent share of GM's North American jobs and 25 per cent share of Chrysler jobs. "It's not an easy issue, there's no doubt about that, but we still think there's good reason to believe we can put these particular businesses on a solid footing," the premier said.

Economic Development Minister Michael Bryant said any equity stake the province takes in GM would not be significant.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Metro Drive pg 27

Mitsubishi's hatch life

Entertainment pg 30

Hugh Jackman sharpens claws

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Hospital CEO on leave after assault charge
The CEO of York Central Hospital has been placed on administrative leave after the 61-year-old executive was charged in an assault on his fiancée. Bruce Harber was arrested late Sunday and released on bail Monday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Kid allegedly used as pawn

A Toronto man allegedly abducted a woman's three-year-old daughter and used the girl to force the woman to work for him as a prostitute, police said last night. The child was found with a babysitter hired by the accused, police said. Tyrone Dillon faces 10 charges, including procuring somebody to be a prostitute. He was to appear in court this morning. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Comment
Check out Steve Collins's latest Relating column.

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video A failure to adapt to a changing market led to the demise of Pontiac at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Nova Scotians look set to head to the polls as minority Tories clash with the opposition on the economy at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blogs Hollywood Rants about lesser known superheroes that deserve the Hollywood treatment.

Lotteries
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Daily Keno: 4, 7, 12, 13, 15, 19, 20, 28, 29, 32, 36, 40, 54, 55, 56, 58, 61, 62, 63, 65.
These results are not official.

SARS's lessons prepared Toronto

Pandemic precautions underway since '05

The hard lessons learned during the 2003 SARS outbreak have helped infectious disease experts in Toronto and across the country in preparing for a deadly flu pandemic.

The province and cities, including Toronto, have stockpiled appropriate protective equipment, including gowns, gloves, masks and antibacterial hand sanitizer — critical supplies that, in some institutions, ran out during the SARS crisis.

Two antiviral medications — Tamiflu and Relenza — are stockpiled to protect front-line health care providers.

There is now a new Ontario public health agency. And more money has been invested in what were woefully underfunded public labs before 2003.

Surveillance systems within health care facilities have also been improved, so doctors are better able to quickly identify, diagnose and treat significant or unusual disease, says Dr. Andrew Simor, head of microbiology and infectious diseases at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

"We are in a much better situation to deal with pandemic influenza now than we were several years ago, largely because of what we learned from the SARS experience," Simor said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Planning

- Toronto's planning and preparedness activities for an influenza pandemic have been under way since 2005, co-ordinated by the Office of Emergency Management.

Policing **Segways to the rescue**

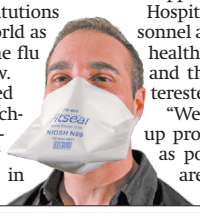
TOLAN BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Const. Terry Stanley of the Cobourg Police Service, demonstrates the Segway personal transporter, like the one he uses on patrol, at a trade show for police officers in Markham. He is currently the only officer in the province who uses a Segway for patrols.

Locally made mask in demand

PROTECTION A designed-in-Toronto face mask, born out of the 2003 SARS crisis, is catching the attention of governments and health-care institutions around the world as fears of a swine flu pandemic grow.

Toronto-based FaceSeal Technologies is already working with officials in Mexico, and is fielding requests for its next-generation face masks from Israel, Germany, Korea and the Philippines.



Hospitals, paramedic personnel and other front-line health services in Canada and the U.S. are also interested in the mask.

"We are trying to rev up production as quickly as possible because we are getting so many demands," said Dr. Gabor Lantos, a co-inventor of the face mask and director of personal protective equipment development at FaceSeal Technologies.

The formfitting facemask, technically called a respirator and dubbed FitSeal, adheres to the face without elastic bands and completely seals off the nose and mouth.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

EDUCATION Giving at-risk students extra help — plus $750 a term in cash — can reduce the staggering 35-per-cent dropout rate in Ontario's community colleges, new research shows. The study is believed to be the first time the controversial trend of paying kids to stay in school — being tested at high schools from Toronto, Ottawa and Kitchener to Winnipeg, Washington, D.C., and England — has been offered at the post-secondary level.

LISTERIOSIS The Maple Leaf plant at the centre of last summer's deadly listeriosis outbreak wasn't properly monitoring and recording the cleaning of its meat slicing equipment earlier in the year, federal inspection records reveal. Twenty-two people across Canada died after eating Maple Leaf deli meats contaminated with Listeria — products that were traced back to the Bartor Road processing plant.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Gunfire sends one to hospital

An overnight shooting in the Yonge and Finch area sent a 28-year-old man to hospital yesterday with a single gunshot wound to his leg. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rotten hydro pole crashes onto home

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Toronto

Could this happen to you? On a beautiful, sunny Saturday afternoon, without a hint of wind, an enormous hydro pole suddenly snapped at the base and crashed into a Toronto house.

Under the tangled mass of debris sat a symbol of what a close call it had been: A shattered plastic wagon belonging to a two-year-old. Just the day before the crash, he had been sitting in the wagon in that exact spot.

"To see the transformer on my son's wagon … I thought, 'Oh my God, we play every day at the wagon,'" said Shannon, the boy's mother. When her husband Mike saw the squashed wagon, it brought tears to his eyes. The couple are tenants on the second floor of the house at the corner of Belsize Drive and Acacia Road near Yonge and Davisville. The hydro pole fell April 18.

When the crash occurred, Shannon, who is seven months pregnant, was in the living room with relatives, celebrating her son's second birthday. All of a sudden, they heard a loud crack and the pole came crashing down, damaging the roof in several places, as well as the ceiling in the front hall.

"We were all terrified," she told Metro.

It turns out the hydro pole snapped because it was rotten.

"This is a very unique and rare incident," says Tanya Bruckmueller, a spokesperson for Toronto Hydro, who admitted the pole was decayed. There are 96,000 wooden poles in the city out of a total of 142,300.

Toronto Hydro's policy is to inspect the poles once every 10 years. That particular pole was inspected in July, 2000. Toronto Hydro is not planning to change its maintenance schedule, although trucks have been seen in the Davisville area replacing poles all week.

If you are concerned about a hydro pole in your neighbourhood, call 416-542-8000 and press 1.

METRO TORONTO

The aftermath of a downed hydro pole in the Davisville area. The pole was rotten and snapped at its base.

Donor offers cash for girl's safe return

Victoria Stafford's parents are pinning all their hopes on a mystery benefactor who is willing to pay any amount of money for the missing girl's release.

"If ransom is a motive, then this will surely help," Tara McDonald, Victoria's mother said yesterday. "I would imagine whoever has her, watches TV and knows there is some money out there and will let go of Tori."

McDonald said an anonymous donor approached her Thursday afternoon and offered to help with any ransom demands. This person — McDonald refused to say if it's a man or a woman — reportedly also lost a child to abduction.

> **"If ransom is a motive, then this will surely help."**
> Tara McDonald

"They were told by police not to pay the ransom and they lost their child. They didn't want that to happen to me," she said.

Victoria, known as Tori, vanished on April 8.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

GTA To weather a worldwide recession, leaders from around Greater Toronto are banding together for a landmark meeting aimed at improving regional economic co-operation. Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion touted the summit as a way to jolt the region into action. The conference will take place May 7 in Markham.

COURT A 23-year-old man whose murder charge was reduced to manslaughter has seen that charge withdrawn because evidence suggests he was fighting off a sex assault. Evidence indicated both men were drunk during the brief struggle in a Mississauga apartment in July 2008.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Homeowners can waive energy audit

LEGISLATURE Ontario Energy Minister George Smitherman has backed down from a plan to require energy audits each time a house is sold.

A new amendment to the province's Green Energy Act will allow home buyers to waive their right to the $300 audit, as long as they do so in writing.

Smitherman

The change will provide more flexibility in cases where the buyer intends to knock down the property or do major renovations, Smitherman said.

But he said he's not anticipating that many buyers will opt out of an audit.

The Liberal government is backing off from the audits because it's afraid of the public backlash, said interim Progressive Conservative Leader Bob Runciman.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Passenger thrown from armoured vehicle
A passenger in an armoured truck was thrown from the vehicle after it was struck by a pickup running a red light early yesterday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Holding strong

Tamil protesters vow to stay until ceasefire

Hundreds of members of Toronto's Tamil community continued to protest outside the U.S. Consulate yesterday and pledged to remain there until a ceasefire is achieved in Sri Lanka.

Police have no plans to move the protesters, who have blocked the northbound lanes on University Avenue between Dundas Street and Queen Street West.

"There has been no deadline established … We are here to facilitate a lawful protest," Insp. Gary Meissner said yesterday morning.

"So long as public safety is not at risk, then these people are lawfully entitled to voice their dissent."

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tamil demonstrators continue their protest yesterday outside the U.S. Consulate on University Avenue.

The section of University Avenue has been shut down since Sunday after thousands of Tamils flooded the streets in response to news that the Sri Lankan government had rejected calls for a ceasefire from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or Tamil Tigers. Thousands of civilians have been killed during the conflict.

A driving rain reduced the crowd to about 100 people yesterday morning. By noon they were joined by several hundred more.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Community

- The GTA is home to a large Tamil community, and many have relatives in the conflict zone in Sri Lanka.

News in brief

COURT A profusion of lies, deceptions, hollow business promises and bad cheques ended for Shaun Rootenberg yesterday with a guilty plea on multiple counts of fraud. The investment dealer, 41, wore a blank expression during an hour-long appearance before Ontario Court Justice Paul Taylor as meeting dates, times and chunks of money totalling more than $2.5 million were read from an agreed statement of facts. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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U.K.....2.9 ¢	U.A.E.....16.9 ¢	Trinidad.....7.9 ¢
Israel.....2.9 ¢	Sri Lanka.....11.9 ¢	Australia.....2.9 ¢
Bangladesh from 3.9 ¢	Lebanon .....9.9 ¢	Nepal from 7.9 ¢

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Quebec author named parliamentary poet laureate

Pierre DesRuisseaux, a winner of the Governor General's Literary Award, has been named the next parliamentary poet laureate. The 63-year-old Quebec author replaces John Steffler for a two-year term. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada

Tax worker accused of tampering

The Canada Revenue Agency says a staff member in Newfoundland and Labrador is alleged to have tampered with 102 tax returns to divert $668,000 to his personal bank accounts between 1996 and 2007. An agency spokesman says the employee in the St. John's office has been fired, and the matter has been sent to the public prosecutor's office for possible criminal charges.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHO looks for flu waves

Will raise pandemic level if virus is seen taking root

The World Health Organization is looking for evidence swine flu viruses are spreading in sustained waves before moving to pandemic alert level Phase 5, the agency's top influenza expert explained yesterday.

"What we are looking for also are cases in outbreak which indicate that the infection is becoming established in a community."
Dr. Keiji Fukuda, WHO

Dr. Keiji Fukuda said the WHO and its panel of expert advisers want to see that swine flu viruses haven't just spread to a country like Canada or the United States from Mexico in a traveller, but that they have actually taken root and are continuing to transmit.

"What we are looking for also are cases in outbreak which indicate that the infection is becoming established in a community or becoming established in a country," Fukuda, the WHO's acting assistant director-general for health security and environment, said during what has become a daily media briefing.

"So even though we know that the virus has reached the United Kingdom and New Zealand, for example, in the form of infections in travellers, this is still a different situation than the infection becoming established in a community in those countries."

While it might not be clear to people not steeped in the study of infectious diseases, if disease investigators saw confirmed illness in people who hadn't been to an affected country but had contact with someone who got infected there, that would be of interest. If the new case was in someone several generations of contact away from an infected traveller, that would be a sign the viruses were becoming established in a community.

The WHO has had years of experience watching for transmission patterns with H5N1 avian flu viruses.

But to date, those viruses have only been seen to be able to spread through three generations — so person-to-person-to-person — before petering out. And that level of spread has been rare.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On April 30th, three of Toronto's top radio stations will be handing their mics over to a bunch of kids.

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PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mexican seasonal farm workers arrive at Montreal's Pierre Elliot Trudeau airport on a flight from Mexico City Monday.

Farmers confident Mexican workers don't pose threat

LABOUR Canadian farmers who employ Mexican migrant workers said yesterday that they aren't stocking up on protective face masks and few harbour fears that swine flu will be imported by farm hands into their rural communities.

Instead, they're far more concerned about labour shortages and the emotional strain on their seasonal employees — who are often treated like extended family — rather than a fear of becoming infected with the virus.

The federal government announced Monday that it has beefed up its screening process for Mexican workers entering the country. They'll need to have a fever-check by two doctors, fill out a questionnaire and undergo a physical.

Ontario averages about 15,000 foreign seasonal workers a year, of which about 8,500 are Mexican. While many are already hard at work, an influx of more are expected to enter the workforce soon.

"Among us there is a little sense of unease because we rely heavily on our labour, because everything is hand-picked — we are worried," said Holland Marsh vegetable farmer Domenic Riga.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Include Inuit in Arctic talks: Group

NORTH The day before politicians from all Arctic nations are scheduled to meet in Norway for sovereignty discussions, the world's Inuit have released a declaration saying they have a right to join in any talks that affect the future of their frozen homeland, participation that they say has so far been denied.

"Inuit have various rights as peoples to be meaningfully consulted in regards to decisions that are being made in the circumpolar Arctic that are affecting us without our involvement," said Duane Smith, Canadian vice-president of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, which represents about 150,000 Inuit around the world.

The declaration was released yesterday in Tromso, Norway, before ministers from the eight-member Arctic Council are scheduled to meet in the city. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

STAFFORD The mother of missing Victoria Stafford says she had a mysterious meeting in a Toronto hotel room with a stranger who, she says, warned her to offer a ransom for her daughter's return because in a similar circumstance police advised against paying and their child was killed.

INQUIRY An expert for the company that makes Tasers has told a public inquiry into Robert Dziekanski's death that he doesn't think the stun gun contributed to the man's death. Dziekanski died in 2007 after being Tasered at Vancouver's airport.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Senate calls for more child-care spending
The Senate is calling for a new minister of children and youth to help lift Canada's international ranking when it comes to child care. Canada came last among 14 developed countries in a 2006 report on child-care spending and early learning. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recession the great leveller

Workers everywhere feel pinch

The worst recession in decades is not choosing favourites, hammering Canadian workers regardless of where they live, new data on employment insurance payouts show.

The number of Canadians collecting jobless benefits jumped 7.8 per cent to 610,200 in February, the highest level in more than 10 years, reflecting the massive job losses of recent months.

But unlike in the past two recessions, which hit Canada's manufacturing base hardest, this time workers from coast to coast are taking body blows.

Statistics Canada notes the number of people on EI has risen 21.8 per cent since October, when employment losses began, with all regions showing increases.

Hardest hit in percentage terms were western provinces Alberta and British Columbia, followed by Ontario.

Since October, Alberta has seen a 67.9 per cent increase in beneficiaries, while payouts jumped 39.8 per cent in British Columbia and 28.6 per cent in Ontario, many in the auto sector.

Relief is unlikely to come soon, either from the government or the economy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New report

- In a report being released tomorrow morning, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives argues that job losses are happening at a time when Canadians can least afford to be without work.
- The report notes that personal savings rates are low, household debt is at record levels, and EI pays less than during the recessions of the early 1980s and 1990s, while covering fewer of the jobless.

B.C. Campaign train

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

British Columbia NDP Leader Carole James, left, talks to four-year-old Grace Lee as she rides on a SkyTrain from Surrey, B.C., to a campaign stop in Burnaby yesterday. Lee was on her way to school with her grandmother. B.C. voters go to the polls May 12.

Family of violent crime victims meet

HEALING A 14-kilogram boulder aimed at a school bus was hurled off a Whitemud Drive overpass, killing Robert Stanley instantly.

"Why?" was the question Bruce Stanley asked, when he stared into the eyes of his father's killer.

"I finally found out what remorse was all about," he said. Robert Stanley was killed in June 2002, when that falling boulder smashed through the windshield of the school bus he was driving. The expression of regret came from one of the two men, who were both 15 at the time, over a prank that went horribly wrong.

People shattered by violent crime met yesterday at Edmonton's Grant MacEwan College, sharing how restorative justice helped them heal.

METRO EDMONTON

Canadian cops mentor Afghans

LAW AND ORDER Police officers from Canada's major multi-ethnic cities are finding there's a lot they can learn from mentoring their counterparts in Afghanistan.

Some 30 Canadian police officers involved in training the Afghan police are themselves learning much about culture, integration and community policing.

"We can't do a mission like this and return to Canada with the same view of the world or of multiculturalism," Roch De Roy, a Montreal police officer, said during an interview at the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team where most of Canada's civilian efforts are centred. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

INQUIRY Fred Doucet, a longtime confidant of Brian Mulroney, says he was only trying to be helpful when he drafted a memo on the former prime minister's lobbying deal with businessman Karlheinz Schreiber — seven years after it happened.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Pope demands 'soul-searching' in visit to earthquake ruins

Pope Benedict embraced the survivors of Italy's deadly earthquake in a visit yesterday, demanding "serious soul-searching" from those responsible for the shoddy construction blamed for many of the 296 deaths. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

War resister gets year in jail

A Georgia soldier deported from Canada and charged with deserting the U.S. army has been sentenced to a year in prison. Specialist Cliff Cornell, who fled to British Columbia in 2005 to avoid deploying to Iraq, pleaded guilty yesterday to desertion with intent to avoid hazardous duty. Cornell is among an estimated 250 U.S. war resisters who fled to Canada. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alarm builds over swine flu

An escalating viral outbreak with pandemic potential continued its slow paralysis of Mexico's once-bustling capital city yesterday as a growing number of swine flu cases in the U.S., Canada and elsewhere left the world bracing for the impact of a deepening global public-health crisis.

Nowhere were matters more urgent than in Mexico City, where swimming pools and pool halls were closed, restaurants offered only takeout and officials contemplated severing the city's spinal column: a serpentine subway system that ranks as the seventh-busiest in the world.

But the sense of alarm was mounting elsewhere as well as the number of confirmed cases in the U.S., including at least seven involving hospitalization, climbed to 68, up from 40 on Monday.

"I fully expect we will see deaths from this infection" as cases are investigated, said Richard Besser, acting director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

In New York, where the bulk of the American cases are concentrated, several hundred students had fallen ill at a school already hit by the outbreak after a group of students went on a spring break trip to Mexico, city officials said.

Outside of North America, there were 17 other confirmed cases: two in Scotland, 11 in New Zealand, two in Spain and two in Israel.

In Mexico, some 152 deaths have been attributed to the outbreak, which is confirmed or suspected in nearly 2,000 cases of illness. So far, swine flu has not been blamed for deaths outside Mexico, but officials have warned that's almost certain to change. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDUARDO VERDUGO / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People wearing face masks sit at the waiting room of the Naval hospital in Mexico City yesterday. World health officials raised a global alert to an unprecedented level as the swine flu was blamed for more deaths in Mexico and the epidemic crossed into the Middle East and Asia-Pacific region.

Worst-case flu scenario: 2 million killed in U.S.

PREDICTIONS If the Mexico swine flu becomes a global pandemic, the routines and comforts of daily life would vanish in the blink of an eye. Small towns and big cities alike would go into a protective crouch.

The worst case scenario, according to U.S. government planners: Two million dead. Hospitals overwhelmed. Schools closed. Swaths of empty seats in stadiums and houses of worship. An economic recovery snuffed out.

We're nowhere close to that. But government leaders at all levels, and major employers, have spent nearly four years planning for the worst. Their reports paint a grim picture of what could happen if the flu gets out of control.

A full-scale pandemic like the 1918 Spanish flu, would sicken 90 million Americans, or about 30 per cent of the population. It could claim the lives of about two per cent of those infected, about two million people, according to government experts. To put that in perspective, the regular flu causes about 30,000 deaths each year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel companies pulling trips to Mexico

CANCELLATIONS Travel companies are cautiously beginning to pull Mexico from the itineraries of their planes and ships as flu fears rise.

Canada's largest travel company, Montreal-based Transat AT, said it is bringing its customers and employees in Mexico back to Canada and postponing any further flights to the country until June 1.

Customers booked for trips to Mexico with Air Transat, Transat Holidays, Nolitours, Vacances Transat and Look Voyages before then can change their travel plans with no additional charges. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Republican U.S. senator plans to switch parties

POLITICS Veteran Republican Sen. Arlen Specter disclosed plans yesterday to switch parties, a move intended to boost his chances of winning re-election next year that will also push Democrats closer to a 60-vote filibuster-resistant majority.

Sen. Arlen Specter

"I now find my political philosophy more in line with Democrats than Republicans," Specter said in a statement.

Specter, 79 and in his fifth term, is one of a few Republican moderates remaining in Congress. Specter faced an extraordinarily difficult re-election challenge in his home state in 2010, having first to confront a challenge from his right in the Republican primary before pivoting to a general election campaign against a Democrat. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STOP HAIR LOSS

BIO-FEN PLUS™ is a natural health product used in the treatment of hereditary androgenic alopecia *(AGA)* in adults ***(male or female pattern baldness.)*** It contains scientifically calculated proportions of extracts of fenugreek seeds, saw palmetto berries and flax lignans. Each are known to possess an inhibitor of the enzyme responsible for causing male or female pattern baldness. It also contains a mixture of B vitamins, folate and biotin to help metabolize these herbal extracts so that they are more bio-available, and to support the growth of strong and healthy hair.

What causes hereditary hair loss?

Each hair grows from a pocket in the skin called the hair follicle. During its growing phase, the follicle has a bulb-shaped bottom, the center of which is called the dermal papilla. The papilla is fed by very small blood vessels, which bring it food & oxygen and remove wastes. The papilla is highly sensitive to hormones and chemicals secreted by the body *(or ingested as a medicine)* which impacts hair growth.

It is believed that some individuals have a genetic predisposition to a receding hairline *(most common in men)* or hair/follicle thinning over larger areas of scalp *(more common in women)*. These conditions result from hormonal changes caused by an enzyme in the dermal papilla called 5-alpha-reductase. This enzyme breaks down the hormone testosterone into dihydrotestosterone *(DHT)*.

Over a period of time, an over abundance of DHT causes the hair follicle to degrade and shortens the active phase of the hair, eventually leading to thinner hair and eventual hair loss.

How does BIO-FEN PLUS™ *work?*

Specific compounds within the herbal extracts inhibit the 5-alpha-reductase *(and therefore reduce DHT)* to prevent or slow down the rate of hair loss. This process is the principle by which the prescription drugs such as Propecia *(finasteride)* work. However, BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains additional compounds which remove excess cholesterol and testosterone – the building blocks of DHT.

BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains vitamins to increase blood flow to the small capillaries that feed the hair roots, to deliver the active herbal compounds and remove waste. **Therefore, BIO-FEN PLUS™ provides a natural, safer alternative to expensive drugs, and/or expensive & painful hair transplants.** As with the prescription alternatives, results vary from person to person, and no one product will work for everyone.

How long must I use BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ capsules are usually effective at stopping hair loss within the first two months. However, since healthy hair grows only about 1 cm each month, it may take up to three months before you notice that hair growth is increased or further hair loss is stopped.

Anyone experiencing new growth will see it within four to six months. Once results become apparent, some users are able to reduce their BIO-FEN PLUS™ supplement dose to one capsule every second or every third day. Some clients will continue to take BIO-FEN PLUS™ daily. Once you stop completely, however, your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started.

How safe is BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

The ingredient combination in BIO-FEN PLUS™ is generally safe for most adults. However, the following cautions are advised:

Folic acid: Consult a health care practitioner if you are uncertain whether or not you are taking adequate vitamin B12, as folate supplementation can mask a Vitamin B12 deficiency.

Vitamin B3: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you have impaired liver function.

Vitamin B6: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you are taking levodopa.

What is the quality of BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ is manufactured in Canada according to a quality assurance program called Good Manufacturing Practices *(GMP)*. This ensures that the ingredients are tested for their level of quality, potency & purity, prior to production and again prior to sale.

See our website to locate your nearest Health Food Store or Pharmacy that offers BIO-FEN PLUS™ and other quality products from Hair Grow Technology. If you have any questions or comments about our products that target hair loss and support the growth of strong, healthy hair, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Each BIO-FEN PLUS™ *capsule contains (mg/capsule):*

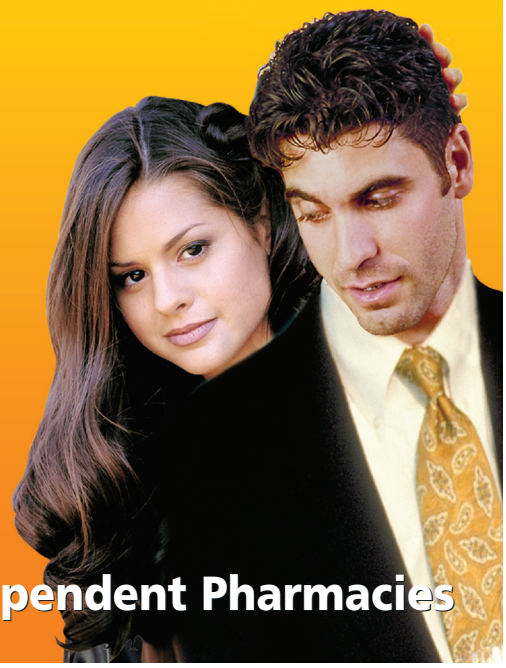
Fenugreek *(Trigonella feonum graecum)* seed extract 4:1	260 mg
Saw palmetto berry extract contains 45% powder, esters & sterols	160 mg
Flax lignans, standardized to 20% secoisolariciresinol diglucoside *(SDG)*	100 mg
D-calcium pantothenate *(Vitamin B5)*	10.40 mg
Niacinamide *(Vitamin B3)*	10.25 mg
Pyridoxine HCl *(Vitamin B6)*	2.00 mg
Riboflavin *(Vitamin B2)*	1.58 mg
Folic acid	0.095 mg
Biotin	400 mcg

Non-medicinal ingredients: inert microcrystalline cellulose and vegetable-based magnesium stearate in a veggie-based capsule.

Recommended adult dose: . . . . . .one capsule per day

BIO-FEN PLUS

www.biofen.com



Available at Health Food stores and Independent Pharmacies

Lost teen hiker found safe after three nights

A 17-year-old Eagle Scout lost for three nights near the highest mountain in New Hampshire has been found safe and well. Searchers brought Scott Mason, of Halifax, Mass., down to safety. Mason headed up Mount Washington early Saturday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama orders stunt probe

U.S. President Barack Obama has ordered an internal review to determine how the decision was made to send one of his official airplanes on a low-flying photo op past the New York City skyline.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said the point is to determine "why that decision was made and to ensure that it never happens again."

Gibbs said Obama was "furious" when he heard about the incident. Obama has called it a mistake.

On Monday, one of the Boeing 747s used by Obama and an F-16 jet circled the Statue of Liberty at the start of the work day, startling workers in lower Manhattan who feared a nightmarish replay of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Gibbs said the review would likely take about a week or so to complete.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blame

- The director of the White House military office, Louis Caldera, took the blame for the incident.

KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Queen passes Yeoman Warders yesterday at Westminster Abbey in London.

Yeomen's tights tickle Philip

CEREMONY The Queen honoured her Yeomen of the Guard yesterday in a ceremony at Westminster Abbey, while her husband reportedly joked about the guards' scarlet stockings.

The Queen placed flowers at the tomb of King Henry VII on the 500th anniversary of his death.

"Prince Philip had lots of jokes about the yeomen's tights," Yeoman Charles Enderby said. He didn't repeat them.

Yeomen of the Guard are distinct from Yeomen Warders, known as "Beefeaters." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JASON MCLANE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A cellphone photo by Jason McLane shows a Boeing 747, known as Air Force One when the U.S. president is aboard, flying low over New York Harbor, followed by an F-16 chase plane Monday.

Peacekeepers get life for mutiny

NIGERIA A Nigerian military court has sentenced 27 former United Nations peacekeepers to life in prison after they were convicted of mutiny following protests over the nonpayment of their allowances, their lawyer said yesterday.

They were among more than 800 rank-and-file who protested last year by blocking the highway with bonfires and chanting war songs condemning their superiors.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jailed journalist on hunger strike?

IRAN A spokesman for Iran's judiciary has denied that the American journalist jailed in the country for allegedly spying for the United States is on a hunger strike and says she is in "good condition."

The father of 32-year-old Roxana Saberi said Monday that she is "very weak" after being on a hunger strike for one week, drinking only sweetened water to stay alive.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

PIRATES The Seychelles Coast Guard says it has arrested nine suspected pirates believed to be behind the attempted hijacking of an Italian luxury cruise liner over the weekend. When the MSC Melody, which was attacked Saturday, made a distress call, the Seychelles Coast Guard sent out a small plane that spent five hours photographing the pirates' skiff and marking its position. A Spanish navy ship then set off and apprehended the suspects. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

London bombing accused acquitted

TRIAL Three men accused of helping plan the 2005 London transit bombings were acquitted yesterday of playing any role in the plot, a blow to investigators' hopes of convicting anyone over the worst attack on Britain since the Second World War.

A jury in London found Waheed Ali, Sadeer Saleem and Mohammed Shakil not guilty of conspiring to cause explosions. They were accused of working with four suicide bombers who attacked three subway cars and a bus July 7, 2005, killing 52 passengers and themselves.

Prosecutors had alleged the accused took part in a test run for the attacks in December 2004, when they joined three of the July 7 bombers on a trip to London. The group visited subway stations and a host of popular tourist spots, prosecutors said.

Ali and Shakil were convicted of a lesser charge of conspiring to attend a terrorist training camp.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Close friends

- Shakil, Ali and Saleem were close friends of the four suicide bombers and are the only people to have been tried in connection with the July 7 transit attacks in London.

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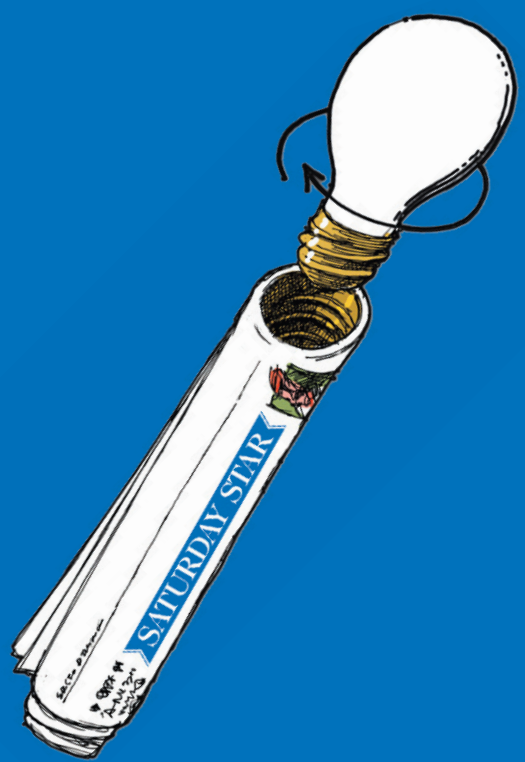

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Comment & Views

Comment

Moralists now stalking Craigslist

TheWestView

Craigslist founder Craig Newmark was in Vancouver yesterday, but on the advice of his lawyers, he kept a low profile. So he cancelled all his media interviews and confined his remarks to the Mortgage Brokers of BC, a comparatively safe crowd.

The reason? An alleged serial stalker/killer has managed to do what his newspaper competitors have failed to do: Put Newmark on the defensive.

Prosecutors think a Boston University medical student, Philip Markoff, stalked women who placed erotic ads on Craigslist, and accuse him of killing one of his victims, 25-year-old Julissa Brisman, who advertised her, um, massage services on the site.

And that has brought out the moralists in force. Newmark now faces a lawsuit in Illinois, and if the rhetoric favoured by the Cook County sheriff is any indication, Newmark is in big trouble: "Craigslist is the largest single source of prostitution in the nation," he growled, quoted in Computerworld.

Then there's the usual gang of people who start with "P": Police, psychologists, pundits, all of whom believe the Internet, never mind just Craigslist, is not a safe place to go 24/7, never mind after dark.

Newmark, who still runs Craigslist with a small band of dedicated webbies, comes across as an Internet idealist who hearkens back to the days when it was the domain of a few harmless geeks who thought they had a better idea: Free classifieds. But he's clearly a threat, if not to children, runaways, etc., then to the newspapers of the world.

Recently, for example, I advertised my car on Craigslist. I could keep the ad up there as long as I liked — for nothing. I received numerous inquiries from all over Metro Vancouver, and finally sold the car to a happy customer. The same ad in one of Vancouver's daily newspapers would have cost more than $100 a month, which is why classified ad lines are down and Canwest is consolidating its classified ad desk in … Calgary. I'm just surprised the Aspers don't move the whole thing to Mumbai, where it's still possible to be a millionaire for a few more weeks.

So Newmark is not going to get a lot of sympathy in the media. Except here. It seems to me if he has to shut down his erotic ads, all the traditional media who continue to subsist desperately on their own erotic ad sections will have to do the same.

But that's not good enough. There are still plenty of homicidal perverts lurking in the shadows cast by bricks and mortar … and trees. So, just to be safe, let's shut down the bars, the schoolyards and the parks.

That should do it.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: Do you think airlines and governments are doing enough to ensure security on flights?

Brett Hogarth
age 23, Toronto

A: It's really not a concern to me. I don't really travel that often.

Mark Owen
age 17, Toronto

A: I've never flown in my entire life, nor will I ever, due to my lack of government confidence. … My life in your hands? Maybe tomorrow.

Doug Lea
age 41, Toronto

A: Yes, they are. It's pretty strict when you have to remove belts and shoes and the whole shebang. I think they've tightened it up quite well.

Asia Gourlay
age 21, Vancouver

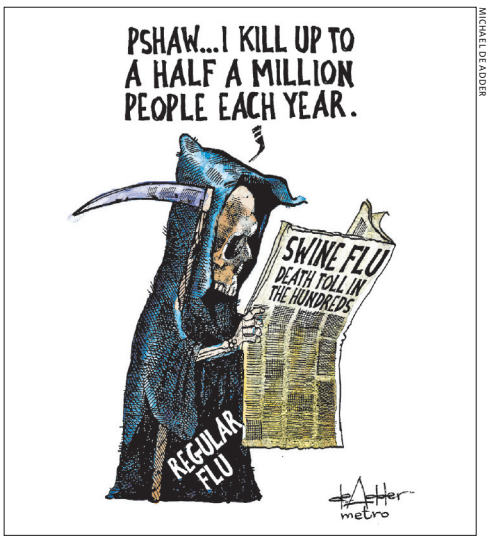
A: I think it's enough to ensure our safety. … Taking off your shoes and not bringing aboard shampoo isn't that much to ask.

Megan Henwood
age 18, Parrsboro, N.S.

A: No. Look at what happened in Jamaica last week. … Somehow some guy managed to get on a plane with a gun, so obviously something is wrong there.

Dean Koehli
age 33, Edmonton

A: Yes, they're doing enough. They pretty much strip you down to your socks and underwear at security.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

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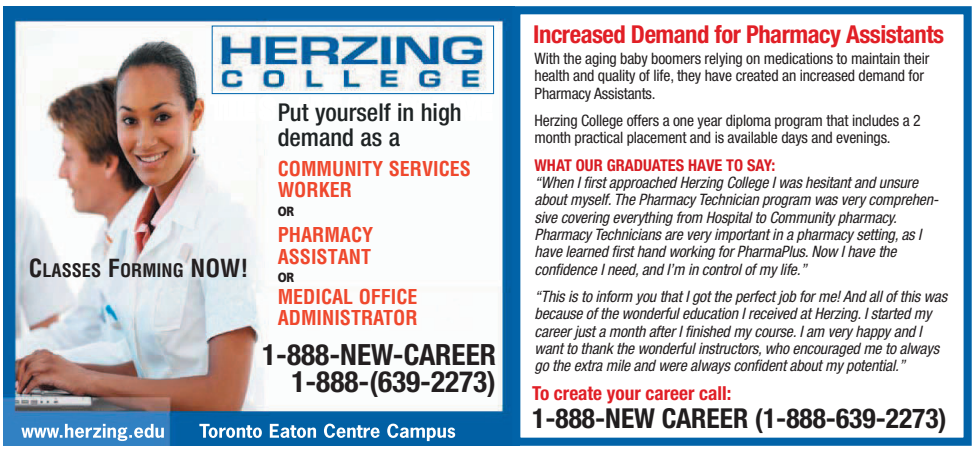

Fox-Tek narrows annual loss down

Fiber Optic Systems Technology, a developer of patented sensing systems, says it cut its annual loss by $1 million on cost cutting taken throughout the year. The company, also known as Fox-Tek, narrowed its annual loss to $4.4 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

MAGNA Germany's economy minister said Canadian car parts maker Magna International has drawn up a "rough concept" for its possible investment in Adam Opel, but the next move hinges on Opel's parent, General Motors Corp.

STORES Quebec-based Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc. is buying nearly 500 ExxonMobil convenience stores and fuel outlets in the U.S. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Stocks slide for 2nd day

Swine flu cuts oil demand

The Toronto stock market closed lower for a second day, as investors continued to take profits yesterday from a seven-week-old spring rally.

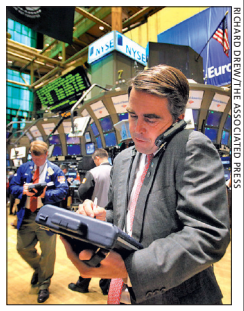
New York markets closed little changed as the release of a much better than expected reading of U.S. consumer confidence helped investors deal with new concerns about banks.

"The sustainability of this rally will depend on the U.S. economic data coming in and it needs to come in better than expected — and that's precisely what we got this morning with the U.S. consumer confidence numbers, which were very, very positive," said Vincent Delisle, portfolio strategist at Scotia Capital in Montreal.

Toronto's S&P/TSX composite index lost 46.77 points to 9,348.03 dragged down by oil stocks as crude prices remained under pressure on concerns the spread of swine flu could cut demand for fuel.

There has been concern the spread of the disease could escalate to a full-blown pandemic and derail the economic rally, which has been based on hopes the worst of the economic damage from the recession is already factored in.

Banking troubles came back after regulators told Bank of America and Citigroup that they may need to raise more capital or convince regulators that results of government "stress tests" were mistaken. THE CANADIAN PRESS



RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Traders work at the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

Brighter side of downturn

OILSANDS Petro-Canada, which plans to merge with Suncor Energy this year, will likely see costs at its Fort Hills oilsands mine come down about 30 per cent, the Calgary-based company's CEO said yesterday. The cost estimate of the project's mining portion was around $14 billion, but now that number probably sits at less than $10 billion because of lower steel, labour and construction costs, Ron Brenneman said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reversal

- Petro-Canada reported a loss of $47 million for the first quarter, a sharp reversal from profit of $1.08 billion a year earlier.

Petcetera closing two GTA locations

PET STORE Privately-owned pet superstore operator Petcetera says it will close four of its company-operated outlets in Alberta and Ontario as the company restructures its operations.

The closures on May 23 affect 100 employees. The affected Ontario stores are in Newmarket and Oakville. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Antenna systems provider's profit wiped out

C-Com Satellite Systems, a global mobile auto-deploying satellite antenna systems provider, said yesterday its first-quarter profit was nearly wiped out to just $266 from $38,136 in 2008. Net income was unchanged at a penny a share. THE CANADIAN PRESS

New blend Starbucks' best brew

ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Starbucks Corp. is hoping its Seattle's Best Coffee chain will be its growth engine as the economy sputters. Starbucks, which is shutting hundreds of namesake locations, is seeking franchisees to open new cafes and kiosks of Seattle's Best Coffee.

Chrysler lenders agree to deal

The U.S. Treasury Department has reached a tentative agreement with four of Chrysler's major debt holders in a bid to keep the automaker out of bankruptcy protection.

The four banks will forgo claims to their portion of Chrysler's $6.9-billion US debt in exchange for $2 billion in cash, two people familiar with the talks said.

The Treasury Department needs to persuade all 46 banks and hedge funds that hold Chrysler debt to go along. That would leave a partnership with Italian automaker Fiat Group as the lone hurdle before tomorrow's deadline.

A person familiar with the Chrysler-Fiat talks said the Fiat deal is near completion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's at stake for U.S. automaker

- If Chrysler can pull together all deals, the U.S. government has promised to provide $6 billion US in loans.
- Without a deal, the U.S. said it would not even provide bankruptcy financing and Chrysler would end up in liquidation.

Shoppers healthy in weak economy

PROFITABLE Shoppers Drug Mart Corp. overcame both an ailing economy and a later Easter shopping season to post a six per cent increase in its first-quarter profits. The Toronto-based company said yesterday earnings were $106.8 million, compared with a profit of $100.7 million in the year-earlier quarter.

Shoppers said the Easter holiday, which fell in the second quarter, negatively affected its first-quarter, front-store sales — or non-prescription items such as chocolate bunnies and cards. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wescast suffers manifold woes

LOSS Automotive exhaust component maker Wescast Industries has been sucked down into a $9.8-million first-quarter loss as sales plunged 48 per cent from a year earlier.

Wescast, whose main customers are the troubled Detroit-based carmakers and which describes itself as the world's leading supplier of cast-iron exhaust manifolds, said its January-March sales were $42.7 million, compared with $81.9 million a year earlier. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In brief

BANNER YEARS Sporting goods retailer Forzani Group plans to increase its sales by 10 per cent a year over five years by reducing its banner count and expanding its Sport Chek outlets. The Calgary-based retailer owns 560 stores across Canada under 16 different banners, including Athletes World and Coast Mountain Sports.

TAKEOVER BID French oil giant Total SA has dropped its $830-million bid to take over Canadian oilsands player UTS Energy Corp. after failing to get the two-thirds of shares it needed — raising the prospect of further consolidation in the ownership of Alberta's Fort Hills project. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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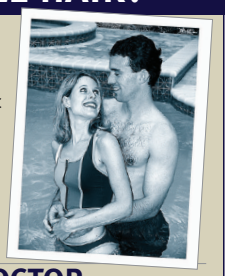
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Cardinals cut James

The Arizona Cardinals released running back Edgerrin James with one year remaining on his contract, a development expected since late last season. James had 794 carries for 2,895 yards and 16 touchdowns in his three seasons in Arizona. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Arena football offer for Vick

Michael Vick has a place on a minor league football team if he can't get re-instated by the NFL. The Albany Firebirds, an arenafootball2 franchise, have offered the 28-year-old quarterback a one-year contract at the league standard: $200 US a week plus a $50 bonus for a win. Vick quarterbacked the Atlanta Falcons for six seasons before being convicted of bankrolling an interstate dog fighting business. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Blue Jays **Safe at home**

ED ZURGA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto Blue Jays Vernon Wells slides safely home as Kansas City Royals catcher John Buck can't hold on to the ball last night in Kansas City, Mo. For a complete game recap, visit metronews.ca/sports

Caps, Canes advance

Stanley Cup
2009 **Playoffs**

Thanks to grizzled veteran Sergei Fedorov and a monumental comeback, the Washington Capitals are headed to the second round of the NHL playoffs for the first time in more than a decade.

Fedorov beat Henrik Lundqvist with 4:59 left in the third period, and the Capitals edged the New York Rangers 2-1 in Game 7 last night, becoming the 21st team in NHL history to win a series after trailing 3-1.

It's also the franchise's first series victory since the 1997-98 season, when Washington made it all the way to the Stanley Cup final.

It must feel particularly sweet to the 16 players who were on the team a year ago, when the Capitals also trailed 3-1 in the first round, and also forced a Game 7 at home — only to lose to Philadelphia in overtime.

The Capitals will face Pittsburgh next.

LEN REDKOLES/GETTY IMAGES

Alexander Semin of the Washington Capitals is mobbed by teammates after he tied the game in the first period against the New York Rangers last night in Washington. The Caps won 2-1.

Hurricanes 4, Devils 3

The Carolina Hurricanes stole their thrilling first-round series from the New Jersey Devils in the final 80 seconds.

Jussi Jokinen and Eric Staal scored in a 48-second span late in the third period and the Hurricanes stunned the Devils 4-3 in Game 7 of their first-round Eastern Conference playoff series last night.

It was the second shocking loss for the Devils in the series. They lost Game 4 with 0.2 seconds to play.

This time they gave away the series in the final 1:20.

Jokinen tied the game after taking a great cross-ice setup by Joni Pitkanen. Staal then buried the Devils with a shot from the middle of the right circle with 31.7 seconds to play.

Carolina next plays top-seeded Boston.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Magic beat 76ers

NBA
2009 **Playoffs**

The Orlando Magic are going back to Philadelphia with a chance to close out the 76ers. Dwight Howard made sure of it.

Howard had 24 points and a career playoff-high 24 rebounds, a dominating performance that powered the Magic to a 91-78 victory over the Sixers last night and gave Orlando a 3-2 series lead.

Rashard Lewis snapped out of his playoff slump with a series-high 24 points, and Rafer Alston scored 14 for the Magic. It was Howard's fourth career playoff game with at least 20 points and 20 rebounds.

Andre Iguodala scored 26 points and led a second-half charge that fizzled fast, and Andre Miller added 17 points for Philadelphia.

Celtics 106, Bulls 104

Paul Pierce made three straight jumpers in the final 77 seconds of overtime and the Boston Celtics held on to beat the Chicago Bulls 106-104 last night to take a 3-2 series lead.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadians overpower Slovaks

IIHF Canada is firing on all cylinders at the IIHF World Hockey Championship.

Shea Weber scored one of Canada's five power-play goals and added three assists yesterday en route to a 7-3 victory over Slovakia.

It was the third straight lopsided win to open the tournament for Canada, which is looking to win gold after settling for silver a year ago on home ice.

Jason Spezza, with two, Derek Roy, Shane Doan, Ian White and Steven Stamkos also had goals for Canada. Martin St. Louis added four assists to bring his tournament-leading point total to nine.

Canada now moves into the qualification round and will face either Finland or the Czech Republic tomorrow.

Tomas Surovy, Marcel Hossa and Dominik Granak replied for Slovakia.

The Canada-Slovakia game would have been much closer if not for some undisciplined play by the Slovaks. They came out hard and were finding some early success on the forecheck, creating a hostile environment inside a sold-out Kloten Arena.

Another comfortable win for Canada included another record for Dany Heatley. His assist on Doan's goal was the 22nd he's registered in a world championship, pushing him past Steve Yzerman for the most by a Canadian player since NHLers starting competing in the event in 1977.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Other scores

- In yesterday's other games, Russia defeated Switzerland 4-2, Belarus beat Hungary 3-1 and France stunned Germany with a 2-1 victory.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Washington 2 N.Y. Rangers 1
Carolina 4 New Jersey 3

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Orlando 91 Philadelphia 78
Boston 106 Chicago 104 (OT)
Dallas at San Antonio
Houston at Portland

MLB

YESTERDAY'S AL RESULTS
Chicago White Sox 2 Seattle 1 (1st game)
N.Y. Yankees at Detroit
Boston at Cleveland
L.A. Angels at Baltimore
Oakland at Texas
Toronto at Kansas City
Tampa Bay at Minnesota
Seattle at Chicago White Sox

YESTERDAY'S NL RESULTS
Atlanta 2 St. Louis 1
Philadelphia 7 Washington 1
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Houston at Cincinnati
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee
San Diego at Colorado
Chicago Cubs at Arizona
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Metro Workology exclusive: Paws and Claws
Be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work for our pet industry feature series Paws and Claws. Seen here is Trixie the cat, submitted by a loyal Metro reader.

Workology

Smart Start

Arts Etobicoke presents the 13th annual student art show, 2009 Smart Start sponsored by Sherway Gardens and featuring more than 100 works of art from students from 22 high schools across Toronto, starting this Saturday and running for a week. Call 416-621-1070 for more information or visit sherwaygardens.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Come far and wide to win best in show

Paws and **Claws**

"There's no perfect dog ... It isn't an exact science."
Dog show judge Geraldine Taylor

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

In a competition of looks, grace and genetics, dogs prove that beauty pageants aren't just for people anymore.

Spoofed in the 2000 comedy movie Best In Show, dog shows are indeed serious as dogs (and their owners) strut their stuff in the spirit of competition.

At a recent show taking place in the small town of Fergus, Ont., some competitors brought dogs from cities hundreds of kilometres away or even across the U.S. border and judges converged from as far away as Manitoba, Texas and Brazil.

Edgar Bajona, show chair of the Fergus show, says the tension and competitive spirit at shows is palpable as owners vie for glory.

"It's a tense time — you hope your dog is going to win and the thrill of victory is huge," Edgar said.

Judging standards are developed by breeders and codified by organizations like the Canadian Kennel Club and detailed specifics are put out on things like the shape of the dog's teeth, colour of its hair, its general appearance, how it walks and even its temperament.

Geraldine Taylor, 71, has worked as a judge at dog shows for 30 years and says that a love for dogs is crucial to remain successful as a judge, as well as a keen eye for detail.

"There's no perfect dog. You have to try and find the one that matches the standard most closely and there's always more than one good dog in the ring. It isn't an exact science," Taylor said.

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE>>

ALL PHOTOS: RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Left: Junior handlers at a recent dog show in Fergus, Ont. Right: Dobermans (top) and Collies pose and await the results.

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Metro Workology exclusive: Paws and Claws
Be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work for our pet industry feature series Paws and Claws. Seen here is Monty the Westie, submitted by a loyal Metro reader.

It's all about the dogs

<<CONT. FROM LAST PAGE

Dog handler Christine Tochor, 23, handles dogs part-time for clients and says good handlers have to forge a meaningful bond with the dogs they handle.

"The dogs trust a lot in the handler, so you have to learn how to have a relationship with a dog," she said.

A love for dogs got her interested in handling but a fiercely competitive spirit is what keeps her coming back.

"I like to compete and I like to try and win. I'm certainly not here to lose, that's for sure!" Tochor joked. She was at the Fergus show to compete with her mother's Great Pyrenees, Ace.

For dog owners like Steve Walter, 54, dog shows are more than just a fun diversion — they're a lifestyle choice.

Walter runs an excavating business in Niagara Falls, Ont., and takes Kitty, his miniature Pinscher, to a new dog show every single week.

"For me, it's about the joy of being with my dog. I like competition and I like the people at shows because they're all dog people," Walter said.

As dog handlers scrambled to and from one of the judging rings at the show, Tochor emerged smiling with Ace's leash — and a Best of Breed medal ribbon — in hand.

"We won!" she said.

For more of the Paws and Claws exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by:
metronews.ca/work

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Christine Tochor, 23, right, with Ace at a recent dog show.

Metro readers' best friends

Paws and Claws feature

• Metro would like to thank everyone who has sent in a picture of their pet, we'll try to publish as many as we can throughout the month of April.

Ace

Esteel, left, and Mishka

Samantha, top, and Neo

Shanti

Snoopy

Winnie

Ziggy

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Canadians worried about research cuts
According to a new Harris Decima poll, 67 per cent of Canadians are concerned about university research funding cuts, and of those 50 per cent stated they were "very concerned." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Maternity leave can thwart a dismissal

WorkplaceLaw

It is one of the least understood — and most contentious — issues in employment law. An employee is fired either shortly before, or during, her maternity leave. The employee claims she was fired because she was pregnant or took time away. She says her replacement, who has less seniority, took the job she ought to have retained. The employer, of course, disagrees: Her position no longer exists, or if it does, her termination was unrelated to her leave. This scenario unfolds at workplaces throughout the country, and our courts are increasingly asked to intervene.

Generally, I recommend three approaches:

File a complaint with the Ministry of Labour: Employment standards legislation provides various levels of protection. In Ontario and British Columbia, employment laws require employers to reinstate employees following their maternity leave, with few exceptions. Aside from restructuring, downsizing or where the position no longer exists, the employee is entitled to her pre-leave position or a comparable job if her old job no longer exists.

An employee must actually commence maternity leave in order to receive any protection from provincial statutes. If she is fired, even one day before her leave begins, provincial ministries of labour, which enforce employment standards, will not intervene. In these cases, an employee can turn to the courts or provincial human rights tribunals, where even just the fact of being pregnant can be sufficient to justify additional compensation.

Sue for wrongful dismissal: When 29-year-old Lorna Harris was dismissed from her work on the company's assembly line, she sued for wrongful dismissal. Harris, who was three months pregnant when fired, argued that she ought to receive additional severance, as it would be more difficult for her to find other work. The court agreed. Although it was not clear whether her employer, Yorkville Sound, fired Harris because she was pregnant, it did not matter. Rejecting the company's argument that where pregnancy is not a factor in the dismissal, it should not be a factor in calculating damages, the court awarded Harris an additional two months' severance, concluding she deserved more than a non-pregnant employee would receive. If there is evidence that the employee was fired because she was pregnant, a court or human rights tribunal can also award additional damages for discrimination.

If you are fired before, during or after your pregnancy, there are many legal avenues for you to explore to get just compensation.

Threaten proceedings and then negotiate for more: Employees are owed severance pay when terminated before, during or after their maternity leave. It is open to them to argue that their personal circumstances entitle them to more. Make this argument with an experienced lawyer — not on your own.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

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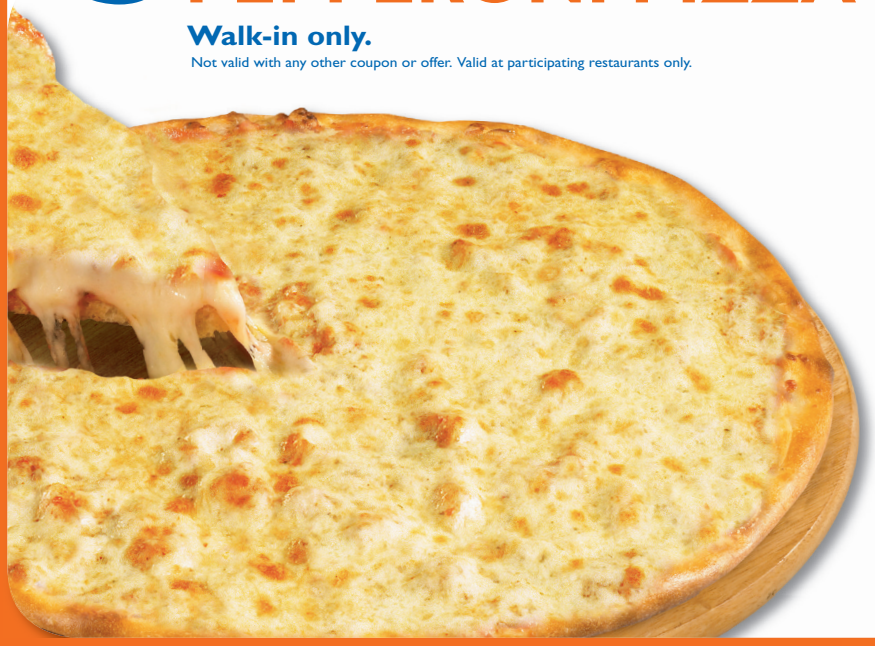

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Historical treasure
The 4,000-year-old Abraham's Gate at the Tel Dan Nature Reserve in northern Israel has reopened to the public after extensive restoration work. The reserve also has an archaeological site with the remains of the biblical city of Laish. See goisrael.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Michael Palin, continued

Beloved ex-Monty Pythonite Michael Palin has made it big in the adventure travel realm, what with six TV travel series and an equal number of books under his belt. His bestselling book Full Circle, the story of a year spent journeying through 18 countries on the perimeter of the world's largest ocean, is being republished next month by McArthur & Company. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Cultivating a taste for Tunisia

North African country offers a wide range of experiences

ROMINA McGUINNESS
Metro World News

Move over Morocco — we've developed a taste for Tunisia. While the former destination may be something of a default for travellers looking to take in the sights and sounds of North Africa, Tunisia can offer an amazingly diverse variety of experiences.

WITOLD RYKA

DANIJELA PAVLOVIC, MARKOVIC

Left, a view of the Antonine Baths in ancient Carthage, Tunisia. Right, a beach bar in the glitzy seaside resort town of Hammamet.

Visitors can find everything from the hubbub of markets to the glitz of a high-society seaside resort and the eerie desert landscapes that formed an otherworldly backdrop for Star Wars.

Start your visit in the capital, Tunis, a melting pot of African culture. The streets are busy with men who sit weaving jasmine petals into tight bunches — which locals wear behind the ear — and lined with European-style shops and cafés.

Avenue Habib Bourguiba, reminiscent of Paris' Champs Élysées, is home to some superb eateries, including the Café de Paris. This colonial haunt has a terrace designed for people-watching and serves the capital's best coffee. Make sure to include an afternoon visit to the Bardo Museum, which offers a look at some of the world's most valuable Roman mosaics.

On the outskirts of Tunis is the Phoenician city of Carthage. This world heritage site has incredible historical remnants and architecture, from archaic amphitheatres through crumbling Roman ruins. It's a mystical place that provides the perfect backdrop for a dynamic music scene — the amphitheatre often doubles up as a concert stage.

The romantic blue and white village of Sidi Bou Said was once a pilgrimage site and has since been favoured by bohemian intellectuals who come to discuss art and politics over tea or dinner.

The village is perched on the hilltops, and local cafés have the best views over the bay of Tunis, providing you with the perfect excuse to lounge on the terraces and drink orange- blossom-infused Turkish coffee.

Then head southwards down the coast to the seaside town of Hammamet. Twenty years ago this fishing village was home to kitsch seaside hotels and swamped by package vacation tourists. Since then, the town's status as high-society's favourite address has risen as fast as August temperatures. This glitzy shore is basically the African equivalent to the French party town of St. Tropez.

The island of Djerba, off the Gulf of Gabes, is renowned for its seawater spa treatments and detox hotels. Visit the Synagogue el-Ghriba or shop at Houmt Souk market on Monday mornings and browse for quirky leather bags, psychedelic clothes or bold and gold Berber jewels.

If the spa treatments have worked their magic, cycle the 10 kilometres to the village of Guellala where you will find all sorts of pottery and the desert sand crystal, Rose des Sables.

The Sahara desert begins south of Chott el-Jerid, the salt lake used as a backdrop in Star Wars. By day, jump in a Jeep and discover the golden dunes and by night, start a campfire and sleep under Bedouin tents.

The lunar landscape of Matmata, built by the Troglodyte community, doubled as the town of Sidi Driss in Star Wars.

The Berber dug craters beneath the earth and created an underground labyrinth in order to escape the stifling heat.

More details

- For more information, visit tunisia.com.

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Bird strikes
The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration has released records of where and when airplanes have struck birds over the last 19 years. Its list details for more than 89,000 incidents since 1990. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Escaping to the open road

RoadWarrior
Michael Jackson

I've been working in the printing industry for 10 years, but after a full year of the recession, I want a break. Since business looks as though it will disappear for a while, so will I — at least for the next six weeks. Email will keep me in touch with my clients while I'm away; my support network will do the rest.

It's a perfect time to head out on a long trip. The family is settled; my wife Shawna is thoroughly engaged in her own hobbies; our boys Willie Rae and Mac have grown up and are (almost) moved out. The dogs will forgive me and the cats won't care.

I'm not a spiritual guy. I'm not going off to face demons or find my true self. The reason I'm going is simple: I want to have an adventure.

I've been riding motorcycles on and off for about 30 years. Lately, I've been leaving for four days at a stretch, riding Ontario's back roads. Each time I ride, I dream of what it would be like to keep going. I no longer have to dream, because as of Friday, it becomes a reality.

Planning for this trip took place over the winter. I have a big map of the U.S. pegged to a corkboard in my office, with pins stuck in areas of interest and string used to mark the route. I'll ride from Ontario to California via the Smokies of Tennessee, the sands of New Mexico, the mountains of Colorado and Utah's Monument Valley in southern Utah. After hitting the beaches of Big Sur, I'll head up the coastline to B.C., across the Rockies to Calgary, then back down through the States to Yellowstone National Park. I will cover about 10,000 kilometres, and visit 22 states and three provinces.

So far, I've packed, unpacked and repacked the bike twice. Each time, the weight and bulk gets stripped down — I'm down to cruising weight now. I'll only take clothes that can be washed in the hotel and hung to dry over night.

A leather jacket and pants, a proper helmet, boots, gloves and spine protectors round out the gear. I'll also take a video camera, laptop and my BlackBerry. For security reasons, my bike will be tracked by Geo-Tracs GPS.

Accommodations will consist of a mix of hotels and sleeping under the stars.

I'm sure this trip will change me — for the better, I believe. There will be good days and bad, but I know it will be one of the most spectacular adventures I've ever had. I'm proud of myself for having the determination to push forward, to put aside the doubts that have inevitably crossed my mind.

I will start and I will finish. And when I get home, weathered and tired, I will be grinning from ear to ear.

Michael Jackson is embarking on a six-week motorcycle trip around North America. Track his progress at adventuremotorcycleroutes.ca.

Road trip

• Metro columnist Michael Jackson is about to embark on the trip of a lifetime. On Friday, he'll head out for a six-week solo motorcycle trip across the U.S. and Canada — but to make things even more interesting, he plans to have something of a mobile office, managing his small business, a printing company, remotely while he's on the road. But will Michael really be able to put work aside at those times when he's trying to enjoy his trip? Will his bike break down, wreaking havoc on his itinerary and budget? And will he go stir crazy travelling by himself for six weeks? Follow his adventures every Wednesday in Metro to find out.

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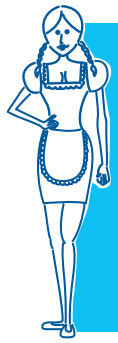

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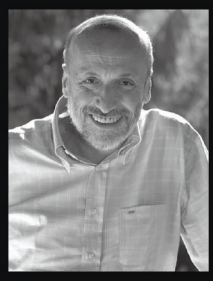

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Online travel booking declines

The recession is finally taking its toll on online travel, with a decline in revenues this year forecast by PhoCusWright, a U.S. travel industry research company.

PhoCusWright said the value of online leisure and unmanaged business travel bookings would drop three per cent this year to $93 billion US.

The company said it was the first time since PhoCusWright began tracking the marketplace in 1998 that online travel has fallen year over year.

The company defines online leisure and unmanaged business travel as all bookings made for leisure or personal travel purposes (everything from vacations to visiting friends or relatives), as well as all air, car rental and hotel expenses associated with business travel in firms that do not have a travel policy dictating types of travel, suppliers, fares or rates. Typically that would include small businesses and people who are self-employed.

Online travel bookings now account for more than a third of the total travel marketplace, PhoCusWright said, adding that the online portion of the business is "now more or less mature and far more susceptible to broader swings in the economy."

The PhoCusWright report added that while online travel will decline in 2009, "it will still far outperform the broader travel market and return to positive growth much sooner."

The company predicts an overall decline in all travel of 11 per cent in 2009 to approximately $241 billion. This returns the total market to pre-2006 levels, when U.S. travel supplier revenue reached $251 billion.

The company also said that the drop in travel is "driven primarily by an even sharper decline" in corporate travel and the groups and meetings markets. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Running a bed and breakfast: Reality v. fantasy

ACCOMMODATION It sounds like a dream job: You have a beautiful old home with extra bedrooms in a location with lots of tourists. You're a great cook and a people-person. Why not open a bed and breakfast?

Mary White, president of bnbfinder.com, has written a new book to help you fulfil your fantasy called Running a Bed & Breakfast for Dummies, part of the series from Hoboken, N.J.-based Wiley Publishing.

The book covers everything from financing, business plans and marketing, to dealing with guests and employees, to location, furnishings, maintenance and breakfast menus.

But it also makes it clear that being an innkeeper takes a lot more than the ability to make a mean blueberry pancake.

The guide covers sticky problems from handling negative online reviews to dealing with guests who break rules, behave in an unruly manner or make incessant demands. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inaugural images go on display at Smithsonian

WASHINGTON, D.C. A grinning President Barack Obama leans in toward his wife as they stand in a freight elevator, a rare quiet moment captured with a camera as they hurry from one inaugural ball to the next. The photograph of the couple away from the cheering crowds and television cameras is one of more than 30 images highlighting the 2009 inauguration that will be displayed at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History through July 12.

The photo shows the president, hands stuffed in his pockets, leaning his forehead toward the first lady, who is wearing his suit jacket over her dress in the chilly elevator at the Washington Convention Center. "It's almost like after the prom," Photographer David Hume Kennerly said, describing the president's gesture to give up his coat. "I love that about him — that he would do that. It's a genuine moment." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Dismal festival
Bird-watchers are getting ready for the Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival, May 7-9, in southeastern Virginia. See .fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yoga atop the Canadian Rockies

TheTravelJunkie
Julia Dimon
metronews.ca/traveljunkie

JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA
Guide Martha McCallum leads visitors in heli-yoga atop the Wedding Knoll, a grassy clearing and matrimonial hot spot.

There's nothing quite like doing "tree pose" at 9,000 feet. But there I was, balancing in this classic yoga position while taking in a panoramic view of the snow-capped Canadian Rockies.

This certainly isn't your average yoga studio. This is heli-yoga, a tourist activity that combines the meditative practice of yoga with a traditional helicopter sightseeing tour.

Just a short drive outside Banff National Park near Alberta's Lake Louise, Icefield Helicopter Tours takes the conventional aerial experience one step further. This helicopter tourism provider has partnered with Martha's Heli-Hikes, an outdoor adventure outfitter, and together, they are offering a variety of high altitude activities, from hiking to snow shoeing, ice walking to yoga.

Tourist keen on connecting with nature may find themselves high on the mountain top, resting in "child's pose," overlooking some of our country's most stunning scenery.

A day excursion begins at the heliport with a brief safety lesson, a gear check and the distribution of tasty gourmet packed lunches. After piling into the chopper and slipping on a set of noise-cancelling headphones (complete with fighter jet style microphones), the pilot is ready for take-off. The blades rotate faster. The whomp-whomp sound crescendos. The chopper lifts off and hovers above the ground like a giant metal dragonfly. Even for the most jaded of flyers, there's something truly exciting about cruising around in a helicopter!

We soared above the mountain range, keeping our eyes open for wolves, elk, grizzly bears and other wildlife found in the area.

Depending on the flight conditions, the helicopter can land in a variety of geographic landscapes, from the waterfalls of the raging Cline River to the ridge of Wedding Knoll, a grassy clearing and matrimonial hot spot.

The chopper found a safe pad to land and Martha, my guide and resident yoga expert, hopped out and I followed her lead. I got into yoga gear and prepared for my Hatha yoga lesson. After a series of poses and meditative moments, the lesson ended with a calm concluding "oooom," a whispered "namaste," and a scenic helicopter ride back to the base. Icefield Helicopter Tours offers day heli-yoga trips in Alberta's Rockies at $469 per person. For more information visit icefield-heli.com.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; juliadimon.com.

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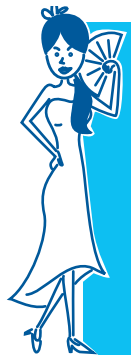

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Travel therapy

Whether you're recovering from an illness, getting over a lost love, celebrating a milestone or reinventing yourself, a new book called Travel Therapy: Where Do You Need To Go? (Seal Press) by Karen Schaler has suggestions on destinations and activities that match your frame of mind. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

East Coast fest honours Arctic explorer

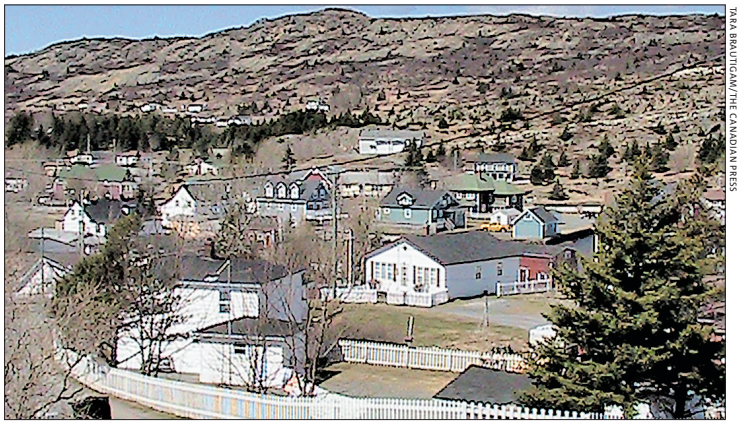
Brigus, N.L., to celebrate 1909 expedition of Capt. Bob Bartlett

The hometown of Capt. Bob Bartlett, possibly one of the world's most adventurous seafarers, provides an idyllic contrast to the conditions he encountered during his famous Arctic expedition a century ago.

White picket fences, air tinged with salt water and flocks of mallards greet visitors to Brigus, a town of 800 that overlooks Conception Bay, about 90 kilometres west of St. John's. It's also the focal point of provincewide festivities this year marking Bartlett's 1909 trek to the North Pole.

In a time before icebreakers, Bartlett embraced hardship and flirted with danger like few others as he broke ground for the better-known American explorer Robert Peary.

In the years leading up to his famous journey, he endured a shipwreck, an onboard boiler explosion and ran out of coal while at sea, using whale blubber and anything else that would burn to fuel his return home. But such mishaps appear only to have stoked his desire to take on the North.



TARA BRAUTIGAM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

With its white picket fences and narrow roadways, the town of Brigus, N.L., is a snapshot in time that harkens back to the 19th century. This summer it will celebrate the 100th anniversary of hometown hero Capt. Bob Bartlett's famed expedition to the Arctic.

"It's all right while you're exploring. You get used to rotten meat, frozen fingers, lice and dirt," Bartlett wrote in one of his journals. "The hard times come when you get back."

The town he came back to is believed to have been settled in 1612, making it one of North America's oldest non-aboriginal communities and a picturesque snapshot in time, with its cottages, stone walls and winding, narrow lanes that harken back to the 19th century.

"It is, historically, a very significant town, very reminiscent of an English village," said Corey Boon, owner of the Bumble Bee Bed and Breakfast.

"It hasn't changed to become a tourist mecca. It is still itself."

That may change a little this summer when, beginning July 11, the Arctic schooner Bowdoin will be in Brigus for three days as part of the Bartlett 2009 celebrations.

The wooden vessel, the smallest designed specifically to traverse the Arctic, made its maiden voyage to Baffin Island a decade after Bartlett's 1909 expedition. It will visit 12 ports throughout Newfoundland and Labrador until Aug. 16.

In 1909, Bartlett was commissioned to cut a path for Peary, sailing through rough seas and sledding over desolate ice to within 240 kilometres of the North Pole. It was closer to the top of the world than anyone had ever confirmed reaching at the time.

After ordering Bartlett to turn back, Peary continued north himself and reported reaching the pole on April 6.

His announcement triggered controversy from some experts, who said it was impossible for him to confirm that he had arrived at his target, but the U.S. Congress and several scientific organizations have since officially recognized Peary's achievement.

Bartlett continued his own journeys to the Arctic and quickly became a celebrated figure whenever he returned to Brigus. Hawthorne Cottage, his childhood home and a National Historic Site of Canada, served as his rest stop before he ventured out to sea again. The town also hosts an annual four-day festival in August celebrating the blueberry. The event takes on carnival-like atmosphere, with fireworks, folk music, raffles and a pie-eating contest.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More details

- bartlett2009.com
- brigus.net

New York marks 400 years since Hudson

NYC Four hundred years after Henry Hudson sailed his ship Half Moon up a river that would one day bear his name, historians are marking his role in the evolution of a tiny Dutch trading post into a world capital called New York.

The activity includes exhibits by the Museum of the City of New York and the New-York Historical Society, a recreation of the Half Moon's voyage of discovery up the Hudson, and scores of events here and in the Netherlands.

The Englishman's journey under the Dutch flag — Hudson's 58-foot ship left Amsterdam on the morning tide of April 4, 1609, and headed west — was yet another attempt by Europeans to find a "northwest passage" to Asia. Hudson and his 20 crewmen got only as far as modern-day Albany. But the impact of their voyage continues to this day.

Spurred by Hudson's report of an abundance of beavers, the Dutch sent fur traders to America and by 1621 the newly formed Dutch West India Co. had established a settlement called New Amsterdam where Hudson's river reached the sea.

That "toehold," as Museum of the City of New York chief curator Sarah Henry calls it, became the focal point of New Netherland, a colony reaching from present-day Connecticut to Delaware. Rather than compete with Britain and France for territory, the Dutch concentrated on commerce — and were good at it.

MIKE GROLL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A replica of Henry Hudson's Half Moon sails on the Hudson River near West Point, N.Y.

"It's not well known that the concept of a permanent company owned by stockholders was an invention of the Dutch," Henry said.

"This innovative approach to business helped set the stage for New York's emergence as a financial and business center."

That is among several themes in three planned exhibits at the museum and one in Holland titled Amsterdam/New Amsterdam: The Worlds of Henry Hudson.

In addition, the New-York Historical Society plans two exhibits, and the Dutch consulate in New York lists more than 50 events in both cities, ranging from New York Nights in Amsterdam to concerts, walking tours, and art and flower shows.

In September, a replica of the Half Moon will recreate its voyage up the Hudson.

Arriving Sept. 3, 1609, Hudson sailed up the river discovered by the Italian Giovanni de Verrazano in 1524 and familiar as well to French, Portuguese and English explorers.

Along the 150-mile journey, Hudson traded with the natives — trinkets and knives for tobacco — repeatedly ran aground, and gave up when the river became unnavigable.

While the Dutch "bought" territory from the natives, it was more like paying rent and giving it back on departure, curator Henry said. "The Indians did not think you could own land, water or air. It wasn't part of their world view."

The Dutch brought not only trading skills but "freedom of conscience" that protected people from religious persecution, a principle later enshrined in the U.S. Bill of Rights. Although slavery existed, New Amsterdam, like modern New York, was ethnically diverse, with 18 languages spoken in 1660.

New York's half-century of Dutch history survives mainly in street names, as fires wiped out most early Dutch-style architecture.

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Hot hotels

For the first time, hotels and resorts from Israel, Mongolia, Peru, Slovenia and Zimbabwe made it onto Conde Nast Traveler's 13th annual Hot List in the magazine's May issue. The list includes lodging, restaurants, nightclubs and spas (cntraveler.com/hotlist). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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An explosive landscape

The largest and southernmost of the Hawaiian islands is shaking, spitting, and stretching as it slowly expands into the ocean. You'll see and feel reminders of this almost everywhere during a trip to Hawaii Island, which most locals call the Big Island.

LEIGH HILBERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People watch from a viewing area as an explosion takes place on Kilauea, one of the world's most active volcanoes, in Pahoa, Hawaii.

On the southern shore, streams of lava pour into the ocean where they form new land. In some neighbourhoods, you'll see fields of black, cooled lava that have poured from Kilauea and Mauna Loa volcanoes in recent decades.

Sometimes the ground shakes as gravity pulls on the accumulated piles of lava. But don't let a fear of tremors prevent you from visiting: the vast majority of these earthquakes are far too weak to feel. Big earthquakes measuring magnitude 6 or more tend to only hit the state about once a decade.

Volcanoes have been central to stories told by Hawaiians for centuries. Legend says the volcano goddess Pele dug fire pits as she travelled from island to island looking for a home with her brothers and sisters.

She finally settled at Kilauea's summit, where she lives at Halemaumau crater. It's said that Pele stomps on the floor of her fire pit when she wants to summon lava, hot rocks, steam and smoke.

You can see for yourself how Pele's lava is building the Big Island if you visit now. Kilauea volcano has been erupting simultaneously in two places for over a year, something that's unprecedented in 200 years of its recorded history.

The first of these eruptions has been spilling lava across the southern part of the Big Island since 1983, swallowing roads, homes and even entire towns. Fresh flows from this eruption are currently slithering into the ocean near Kalapana, a formerly robust town that was mostly buried in lava in 1990.

Kilauea is also erupting from Halemaumau crater at the summit. That's where a large explosion opened a vent in March 2008, leading to the daily release of hundreds of tons of sulphur dioxide. Kilauea has spit small fragments of lava from Halemaumau but hasn't released any lava flows from here.

You can watch the summit eruption from a lookout point inside Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. It's humbling to see the crater's gas plume rise hundreds, and sometimes even thousands, of feet into the air from a vent larger than a football field.

From the visitor's centre inside the park, you can join ranger-guided hikes to see cinder cones and now-solidified lava lakes created by previous eruptions. Some of the walks meander through rainforests. Visitors can even venture into an old lava tube — a tunnel through which lava once streamed. Getting near flowing lava can be dangerous, so it is vital that visitors follow guidelines set by the national park and Hawaii County.

Few other places on Earth have a hotspot forming new land. One is the North Atlantic, where a small island called Surtsey grew off the southern coast of Iceland in the 1960s.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hawaii volcanoes

- Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, nps.gov/havo. The site will give you the latest information about where the lava is flowing into the sea, and what the summit eruption is doing. It also has information on hiking and camping within the park. The park is located on Hawaii's Big Island.
- Round-trip flights from Honolulu to Hilo, the nearest city, run frequently throughout the day, take about 45 minutes, and can be booked for about $100 US. There are also some direct flights to Kailua-Kona, a city on the west side of the Big Island, from Los Angeles, San Francisco and a few other mainland cities.
- The Big Island has limited public transportation so renting a car is your best option for getting around and exploring the island.
- Official Hawaii tourism site: gohawaii.com.

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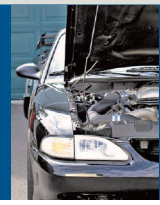


Electrifying kit

Leo Motors, a U.S. and Korea-based company, has come up with a kit that can be used in any type of small to midsize vehicle platform, and can convert them to electric vehicles for real-world use for both highway and city traffic, Canadian Driver reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Romancing the hatch

Mitsubishi introduces Sportback versions of Lancer

PETER BLEAKNEY
for Metro Canada

The 2009 Lancer Sportback is available in two trims: the GTS and the Ralliart.

You can't accuse Mitsubishi of bad timing. With auto buyers reportedly seeking smaller and more efficiently packaged vehicles to perform the daily chores, this seems a good time as any to introduce a hatchback ... er, sportback version of the compact Lancer sedan.

The numbers certainly support this. While Canadian compact four-door sales were up 7.6 per cent in 2008 over the previous year, compact five-door sales increased 14.4 per cent. Think Subaru Impreza hatchback, Toyota Matrix, VW Rabbit, Mazda3 Sport, Honda Fit, Dodge Caliber and Pontiac Vibe.

Joining this party is the 2009 Lancer Sportback, currently arriving in Mitsubishi showrooms. It comes in two trim levels: The front-wheel-drive GTS starting at $23,498 and the all-wheel-drive Ralliart that bows at $33,498. Both cars roll on 18-inch wheels, are mechanically identical to their four-door counterparts, and carry a price premium of $500.

The Lancer sedan is a handsomely chiseled piece, and this hatch version expands on those good looks.

The Lancers' hatch takes up a large swath of real estate, stretching from the top of the back bumper to just beyond the heads of the rear seat passengers. Lift over height is low, and with the 60/40 rear seats folded, the nearly flat load space expands cargo volume from 390 to 1320 litres in the Ralliart, and up to 435 to 1492 litres in the GTS, thanks to a clever dual height adjustable cargo floor that drops 90 mm. The Ralliart doesn't get this because of the all-wheel drive mechanicals.

2009 Mitsubishi Lancer GTS Sportback/ Ralliart Sportback

Type: Compact hatchback
Price: $23,498/$33,498
Engine: 2.4L four/2.0L turbocharged four
HP/Torque: 168 hp; 167 lb.-ft./237 hp, 253 lb.-ft.

Highlights

- Expands on the sedan's good looks
- Fun to drive

The GTS is powered by an all-aluminum 2.4L four that generates 168 hp and 167 lb.-ft. of torque at 4100 r.p.m. Standard is a fine shifting five-speed manual transmission paired with a progressive clutch. A six-speed would have been nice, but regardless, the GTS feels quick and highway cruising is relaxed, showing 2500 r.p.m. at 100 km/h.

The Lancer features a sombre interior swathed in hard black plastic.

Standard GTS features include Bluetooth connectivity, air con, seven airbags (front, side, curtain and knee), heated seats and mirrors, and six-months of Sirius satellite radio.

In all other aspects, the GTS Sportback drives like the GTS sedan, offering feelsome steering, a solid structure, good ride and nicely balanced handling.

The Ralliart Sportback ramps up the performance (and price) considerably, not at all shy about its junior-Evo status.

The ride is stiff-legged, the standard fabric Recaro seats grip like a mother-in-law's embrace, and the Evo's 4B11 2.0L turbo (detuned from 291 hp to 237 hp via a smaller single-scroll turbo and intercooler) feels plenty strong.

Nissan reveals Cube pricing, trim details

Last week, Nissan Canada announced the pricing for the all new 2009 Nissan cube, which goes on sale across Canada for the first time this spring.

With an MSRP of $16,998, the base model is loaded with standard equipment rarely offered in the entry-level market including air conditioning, privacy glass, full power features, vehicle dynamic control system (VDC), anti-lock braking system (ABS), cruise control and remote keyless entry.

With a focus on safety, standard on the Cube are advanced airbags for both driver and passenger, side seat airbags (front) and curtain side impact airbags in the front and rear.

"Cube is a truly unique vehicle and in keeping with this Nissan is offering an extensive list of standard features seldom seen in this vehicle segment," said Jeff Parent, vice-president of sales and marketing with Nissan Canada. "Cube offers exceptional value and expressive design that makes a big statement, in a small package."

The iconic Nissa Cube will be available in Canada this spring.

The Cube is offered in two well-equipped front-wheel drive models: 1.8 S and 1.8 SL.

The car is built on Nissan's B-platform and is available with a state-of-the-art, 122-horsepower, 1.8-litre DOHC 4-cylinder engine. For the S model there is a choice of Nissan's advanced, smooth shifting Xtronic CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission) or six-speed manual transmission.

For those seeking the ultimate Cube experience, the 1.8 SL model comes standard with Xtronic CVT and includes 16" alloy wheels, front fog lights, auto climate control, iPod interface system and Nissan intelligent key with push button Ignition.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Acura unveils sporty ZDX

DEBUT A prototype of the provocative Acura ZDX luxury four-door sports coupe made its world debut recently at the New York International Auto Show. The new ZDX features coupe-like styling with the added benefit of a commanding presence and flexible utility.

The production version of the dramatically styled prototype will be built at the Honda vehicle assembly facility in Alliston, Ont. The model goes on sale this fall.

"The new Acura ZDX is designed to be a luxury performance coupe," said Jerry Chenkin, executive vice president of Honda Canada Inc. "The dynamic coupe styling combined with a luxurious and dramatic interior and surprising versatility, will allow the ZDX to define its own segment and attract a new customer to the Acura brand."

With its sensuous curves, sharply raked roofline and bold fender flares, the ZDX blurs the distinction between coupe, sedan and sport utility vehicle.

In keeping with the coupe-inspired styling, the rear door handles are cleverly concealed in the C-pillar. The all-glass tailgate opens wide to reveal a highly functional cargo space with integrated under-floor storage.

"From the very first sketch of the ZDX, I wanted to create an emotional vehicle that challenged conventional thinking of what a sports coupe should be," said Michelle Christensen, ZDX exterior designer. "My goal was to create a strikingly beautiful exterior, and use that attraction to help draw you into the rich interior."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Acura ZDX

Top Gear Season 10 on DVD

Gearheads, get ready. Season 10 of the globally popular BBC car show Top Gear is now available on DVD. The episodes include several celebrity appearances including Helen Mirren and Simon Cowell. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Motorcycles on ground Zero

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

metronews.ca/autopilot

The citizens of Smallville are nervous. The bikers are coming.

Are they real bikers, or just dentists on holiday? If they're for real, will they just cruise through, or stop and do the mayhem thing? Sweet Mother of Pearl, is there even enough beer in town?

Eighteen minutes later it's all over.

They were real bikers all right — but since this all happens in the future, when everybody rides only silent, electric motorcycles, not many citizens got a heads up that these bike thugs were cruising through town. And those that did happen to watch weren't all that impressed. They heard Shriner parades that were louder.

Now the bikers were nervous. How will they ever intimidate townsfolk any more, if they can't do with straight pipes on a Knucklehead Harley?

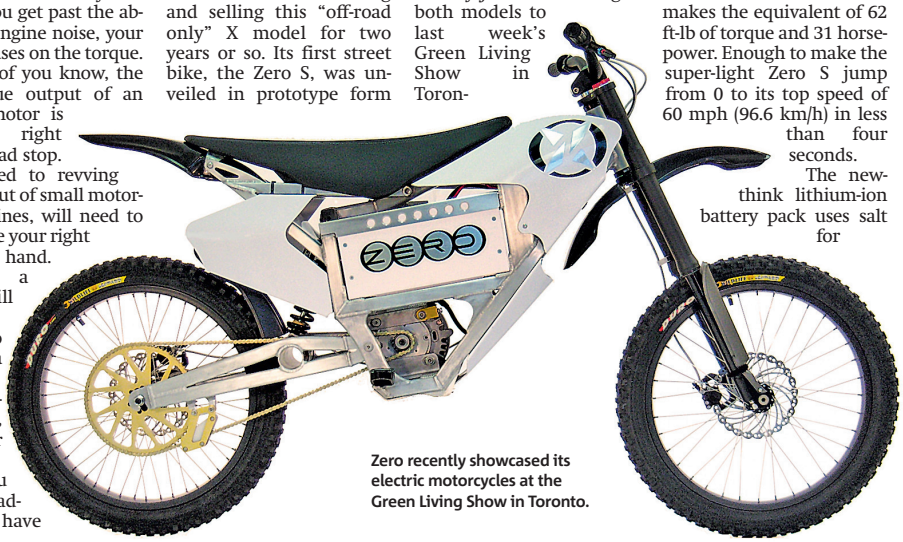
This is just one of the future scenarios I envision while riding the Zero X — an all-electric motorcycle.

Once you get past the absence of engine noise, your mind focuses on the torque. As many of you know, the full torque output of an electric motor is available right from a dead stop. Those used to revving the snot out of small motorcycle engines, will need to recalibrate your right (throttle) hand. Too fast a twist will launch the Zero into a wheelie, and possibly you, onto your butt.

But you quickly adjust and have fun and realize that this is THE FUTURE.

> **"We want to lead in technology and performance ... be the BMW or Ducati of electric motorcycles."**
> Zero's Stephen Beida

Zero has been building and selling this "off-road only" X model for two years or so. Its first street bike, the Zero S, was unveiled in prototype form earlier this month, with production models available by June. Zero brought both models to last week's Green Living Show in Toronto, in preparation for Zero's march into Canada. About 20 Canadian dealers will be in place by the end of the year.



Zero recently showcased its electric motorcycles at the Green Living Show in Toronto.

Stephen Beida, director of sales for Canada, called the Zero S, "the world's first high-performance street-legal electric motorcycle."

The 22,000-watt motor makes the equivalent of 62 ft-lb of torque and 31 horsepower. Enough to make the super-light Zero S jump from 0 to its top speed of 60 mph (96.6 km/h) in less than four seconds.

The new-think lithium-ion battery pack uses salt for chemical reactions, instead of toxic stuff like cobalt, nickel, lead or mercury. Stephen says this makes the battery "completely recyclable and land-fill approved."

A full charge gives the Zero S a range of about 60 miles (97 km).

Beida is unapologetic about price: $7,450 US for the Zero X, and about $9,995 US for the pending Zero S.

"We're not another Chinese knock-off company ... We want to lead in technology and performance ... be the BMW or Ducati of electric motorcycles," Beida says. (Which, by the way, means the Harley-Davidson of electric motorcycles slot is still open.)

All this is good, but some are sure to say that the Zero S is still too expensive, too slow, and too limited in its range. For sure, fair points to contemplate.

But one thing is certain: The future of motorcycles is positively electric.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

Can girl power drive car sales?

EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News

Car manufacturers are probably missing out on potential sales by mainly pitching to men instead of women, experts say.

Of course women can't save the car industry just by buying lots of cars; the problems facing the car industry are long standing issues including oversupply and inflexible unions.

However, women could make a difference. Collette Dunkley, CEO of communications company XandY, and a former board member at GM, has led research that found that women offer the only growth market for new car sales, especially in Western Europe; the number of new cars bought by women will increase by 40 per cent between 2004 an 2020. This is largely because while 86 per cent of men own a driving licence, only 65 per cent of women do, and they are catching up as more girls start to get their licence as soon as they are old enough.

But despite the fact that car manufacturers have known for years that women usually take the final decision on a car purchase (even if a man is paying for it), sales of cars are still geared towards men, starting with the dealerships.

Feedback from a recent survey conducted by luxury carmaker Infiniti when they were developing their showroom concept, found that women felt ignored by salesmen, who only talked to their husbands.

"Women are also interested in performance, engines and technology," says Gaelle Le Grouiec, customer service director at Infiniti Europe. "But your average car salesman treats them like they're only interested in the colour or whether there's a mirror for when they want to put on makeup."

Infiniti sales people are especially trained to make all clients feel special in their innovative upscale showrooms or "galleries."

"There are more women buying cars on their own nowadays, either single women or because they are taking the decision on what car to buy. This has changed in the last 10 years. Even in a couple, it is the woman who has the final power of veto. In terms of business and conversion rate, as well as attracting women and the way they feel about the experience, most brands could have a better score," says Le Grouiec.

If all communication about cars, including advertising, marketing, and in salesrooms, is geared towards men, then surely the industry is missing out on a huge amount of potential sales?

Yes, says Dunkley. "The majority of women don't like the car-buying experience. The car manufacturers are missing a huge trick. The company that gets it right by being the one that understands women, will get a big return on their investment."

Selling to women

Ways manufacturers can attract women buyers, according to Collette Dunkley, CEO of communications company XandY:

- The number one thing women hate is the way they're spoken to by salespeople, it's very linear, technical and product-led. Women like colour and examples.
- The shopping experience is important to women. If you're spending thousands on a car, you don't want to go into a messy, dirty showroom. It's about getting the details right. It takes an average of two hours to buy a car, if there's no baby changing facility, why should a woman leave and come back?

The Chevrolet Cobalt was among market research firm NADAguides.com's top five cleanest conventional cars of 2009.

Cobalt, Focus top greenest cars lineup

LIST NADAguides.com, a U.S. provider of pricing information and market research, has announced its Top Five Cleanest Conventional Cars of 2009, suggesting that hybrids aren't the only choice for those who wish to minimize the environmental impact of their driving.

In fact, four of the five cars on the list put out less air pollution than some hybrid vehicles.

To provide consumers with an option to alternative fuel vehicles, the NADAguides.com market data analysts evaluated fuel economy and emissions data and determined that the Chevrolet Cobalt, Ford Focus, MINI Cooper, Pontiac G5 and Hyundai Elantra are the Top Five Cleanest Conventional Cars of 2009.

Despite improvements in production efficiency and material costs, the prices of gas-electric hybrid vehicles remain considerably higher than those of their gasoline-only counterparts.

The Chevrolet Cobalt LS, Ford Focus S, Pontiac G5 and Hyundai Elantra GLS all qualify for (U.S.) PZEV (partial zero emissions vehicle) certification, while the MINI Cooper is designated as an ULEV (ultra low emissions vehicle).

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Swine flu delays movie premiere

Not even a superhero is immune to the swine flu virus. Twentieth Century Fox has decided to postpone the premiere of X-Men Origins: Wolverine set for today in Mexico City, as the city remains paralyzed by the virus that has killed more than 100 people. **PEOPLE.COM**

Entertainment

Italian wedding

Hollywood couple Maggie Gyllenhaal and Peter Sarsgaard will marry in Italy in May, according to the New York Post. The pair has been dating since 2002, and have a daughter.

FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Wolverine takes a dark turn

Hugh Jackman sharpens claws for mutant role one more time

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Hugh Jackman has made a career of leaping from genre to genre, proving he's just as adept in big, loud action films as he is singing and dancing on a Broadway stage — or even hosting the Oscars.

But for most fans around the world, he's best known for the iconic role that made him famous in the first place: Wolverine.

It's a part he could have missed out on if he'd listened to his wife, who balked at the comic-book action in the pages sent over for Jackman's audition.

"She put it down, saying, 'This is ridiculous. You were at the National Theatre with Sir Trevor Nunn. You can't be doing this,'" Jackman remembers with a laugh. "That's the only time she's ever been wrong, according to her."

Now, after three incredibly successful X-Men films that helped revive the comic book movie genre, the nearly indestructible mutant with the sour mood and the razor-sharp claws is getting his own movie, X-Men Origins: Wolverine, in theatres Friday. And even though he's stepping into the part for the fourth time, Jackman hasn't gotten tired of him.

Hugh Jackman stars in his own superhero movie, X-Men Origins: Wolverine, in theatres Friday.

In fact, it was Jackman's attachment to the character that encouraged him to also take on the role of producer. "I wanted to protect as much as I could the Logan that I saw," Jackman explains. "I thought he got a bit soft by X-Men 3. I wanted to make him a little darker, keep a little more edge to him."

He also hasn't gotten tired of Wolverine's signature muttonchops. "I'm so used to it now," he says. "Without it, I feel a bit weird. But you know, it's not a great look. You just look odd."

Wolverine has always been a pretty macho character, but it turns out Jackman was never satisfied with exactly how macho he was until this film. "I didn't want people to go, 'That guy looks like he works out,'" Jackman explains. "I wanted them to feel danger, power. I wanted him to be veiny, animalistic."

To achieve the look, the actor spent a year in training, packing on pounds through weightlifting, conditioning and eating. "If it turns out that we should all be vegetarian and there's some kind of karmic debt to be paid for eating animals, I am some kind of gnat in the next life."

Movie **feature**

Snoop Dogg takes stand
Snoop Dogg says he didn't hit a man with his microphone during a 2005 concert melee. The rapper took the stand Monday afternoon in a civil trial. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Controversial art

Turner Prize contender creates blue crystal 'cave'

An artist who transformed a condemned apartment into a shimmering crystal cave is among the finalists for Britain's best-known and most controversial art award, the Turner Prize.

Organizers named four artists competing for the 25,000 pound ($45,000) prize yesterday, which is awarded annually to a British artist under 50.

Sculptor Roger Hiorns, 34, used thousands of litres of liquid copper sulfate to turn a derelict London apartment into a cavern of blue crystals. Visitors had to wear protective clothing to visit the work, titled Seizure.

The shortlist also includes London-based Enrico David, 43, an Italian-born artist who creates installations, sculptures and drawings inspired by everything from traditional crafts to 20th-century surrealism.

Glasgow-based Lucy Skaer, 34, creates drawings, sculptures and films and often uses found photos in her work, while Richard Wright, 49, is a Glasgow-based painter inspired by architecture.

Art critic Jonathan Jones, one of Turner Prize's five-member judging panel, said the shortlist would "remind people why British art is so exciting."

"It shows there is a great deal of talent in contemporary art," he said.

The Turner Prize, named after 19th-century landscape painter J.M.W. Turner, was established in 1984 to honour young artists.

Organizers say it is intended to promote public discussion of art — which it does, often provoking comments along the lines of "Do you call that art?"

Past winners include "Brit Art" upstarts such as transvestite potter Grayson Perry, dung-daubing painter Chris Ofili and shark pickler Damien Hirst.

"(The Turner Prize shortlist) provides a huge draw to the public. It is the one time of year when people feel empowered to talk about contemporary art."
Stephen Deuchar, director of London's Tate Britain gallery

"Whatever people might say about the shortlist, it does provide a huge draw to the public," said Stephen Deuchar, director of London's Tate Britain gallery.

"It is the one time of year when people feel empowered to talk about contemporary art."

An exhibition of work by the finalists opens at Tate Britain on Oct. 7. The winner will be announced Dec. 7.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hollywood talent agencies to merge

LOS ANGELES Two of Hollywood's biggest talent agencies announced plans to merge Monday in a power play that attempts to shift leverage from movie studios and record labels back to artists, actors, writers and directors.

The 111-year-old William Morris Agency said it will join with upstart Endeavor, a 14-year-old agency co-founded by Ari Emanuel, brother to White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel and the inspiration behind the character Ari Gold on HBO's Entourage.

The combined entity will be called William Morris Endeavor Entertainment and have revenue in the range of $250 million US to $300 million a year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

ILLNESS Jay Leno has bounced back from his illness, returning to Tonight with jokes about swine flu, the 103-degree fever that sent him to the hospital and the armed guard he said kept him company.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ABC's Lost turns 100

Lost marks its 100th episode today, an achievement its producers consider as surreal as the TV drama's mind-bending plots.

Executive producer Damon Lindelof, one of the series' creators, recalled meeting with ABC executives four years ago to pitch the idea of plane crash survivors stranded on an island of mystery and danger. They were asked where the Lost saga would stand at, say, episode No. 74.

"I said, 'We're probably not going to get past episode 13. Let's all be honest about that upfront," Lindelof recalled, adding, "If I travelled back in time to tell myself after that meeting that we were going to make it to 100 and still have a season beyond that, I would have laughed in my face."

Fans will appreciate the notion of time-skipping, since the current season has revelled in just that. Lost has flung major characters across decades, leaving them feverishly attempting to keep events straight.

"It was always part of the master plan that the time-travel elements in the show would become more overt," said executive producer Carlton Cuse. He recalled an early episode in which Sayid (Naveen Andrews) is fiddling with a radio and hears 1940s music.

Lost has flung major characters across decades, leaving them — and the audience — feverishly attempting to keep events straight and the end game in sight.

"That was a signpost we were planting early ... that this island was not in the same place and space time as the real world. We knew that in season five we were going to deploy this and the show would become more overtly a genre show, and we were OK with that," Cuse said.

"We've always felt we had to make bold choices," he said.

In tonight's episode, titled The Variable and airing at 9 p.m. EDT, viewers will get a few more pieces of the puzzle.

"We're not promising any big whiz-bang flash pyrotechnics," said Lindelof. But it does serve as what he calls "a companion piece" to another memorable episode, last season's The Constant, in which Desmond (Henry Ian Cusick) endured vicious, turbulence-caused side effects.

"This season has really been about the rules of time travel as explained by Daniel Faraday," Lindelof said, referring to the brainiac played by Jeremy Davies. "We've never done a flashback story for Faraday, so he's very mysterious. Some of those mysteries will be answered in this episode."

Viewers also check in on Desmond, wounded in the April 8 episode as he defended his beloved Penny (Sonya Walger) from vengeful, gun-toting Ben (Michael Emerson).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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In brief

HONOUR Jerry Lee Lewis, the piano-pounding rock 'n' roller known as The Killer, has been honoured by Tennessee legislators who voted to name a stretch of road after him — the Jerry Lee Lewis Highway.

FESTIVAL Canadian films were big winners at this year's Sprockets Toronto International Film Festival for Children. The audience choice award went to Mark Jean's Finn On the Fly, about a pet dog that is transformed into a human and the best animated film title went to Sean B. Conly's Jabbawaki, about a monster that falls in love.

COURTS The Supreme Court ruled in favour of a policy that threatens U.S. broadcasters with fines over the use of a curse word on live television, yet fell short of deciding whether it violates the Constitution. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 4/29/09	265	353	2 TVO	Lemur Street	Lemur Street	The Agenda With Steve Paikin		The Last Enemy (N)		*Who Has Seen the Wind?* (1977, Drama)		
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Lie to Me "Undercover"		Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		(10:02) The Unusuals		News
	215	343	4 OMN1	2Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	22 Minutes	Laughs	*Intelligence* (2005, Suspense) Ian Tracey, Klea Scott.				NHL Hockey: Conf. Quarterfinal		
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Scrubs	Friends	Friends	Less-Kind	Murdoch Mysteries (HDTV)		News (N)
	212	313	8 CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Criminal Minds (N)		American Idol (Live)		CSI: NY "Yahrzeit" (N)		News (N)
	218	345	11 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Engagement	Better Off Ted	Janice Dickinson Modeling		Running-Heels	Kardashians	News (N)
	137	763	13 TFO	Panorama		Destination Nor'Ouest (SC)		*Après la pluie* ★★ (1999, Drame) Akira Terao.			Folie-aventure	Mâles en péril
	-	-	14 -	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15 SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*Past Sins* (2006, Drama) Lauralee Bell, Rebecca Jenkins.				To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Engagement	Old Christine	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY "Yahrzeit" (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order "Rumble"		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Scrubs	Better Off Ted	Lost "The Variable" (N)		(10:02) The Unusuals		News (N)
	219	346	20 ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model (N)		Lost "The Variable" (N)		Law & Order (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Lie to Me "Undercover"		American Idol (Live)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	Mulberry	Secrets of the Dead		Cry for Help (N)		What's on Your Mind		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332 TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Next Model
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Newman	Planet Earth "Jungles"		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
	500	500	33 CNN	The CNN National Report Card		Presidential News Conference		The CNN National Report Card		Anderson Cooper 360		Cooper 360
	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		American Greed Jewel thief.		On the Money		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	MMA Conn	Jays	MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Kansas City Royals. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30 TSN	That's Hockey	World Series of Poker: Europe		NHL Pre-Game	NHL Hockey: West Quarterfinal -- Flames at Blackhawks				
	411	457	58 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures "Cuba"		Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures
	417	406	81 SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Amer. Thunder	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks	Drag Race	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25 YTV	In Real Life "Dirty Jobs"		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Karaoke Star Junior		Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45 TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Father of Pride	Moral Orel
	556	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27 W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	Grocery	Supersize vs. Superskinny		Stuck (N)	Maxed Out	Maxed Out
	570	580	29 MM	The O.C. "The Gamble"		disBand	disBand	Paris Hilton's British Friend		Instant Star	Instant Star	MuchOnDem
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami "The Score"		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Exterminators	Exterminators
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Extralarge 2				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36 MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Gimme Sugar	Gimme Sugar	Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38 CMT	CMT's Greatest		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Totally "2003"
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		Cashing In	About a Girl	G-Spot	Cock'd Gunns	Starter Wife		House
	620	523	40 BVO	The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield	Southland		Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Chop Shop	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	NCIS "Dog Tags"		Outlaw Bikers		Ice Road Truckers		NCIS "Dog Tags"		Sea Hunters
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show	Demetri Martin	Daily Show
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Big City Broker	The Stagers	Unsellable	Hid Potential	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47 TBS	MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Atlanta Braves. (HDTV) From Turner Field in Atlanta. (Live)						Home Videos	Seinfeld	Family Guy
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Beauty Shop* ★★ (2005, Comedy) Queen Latifah.				Obama: The First 100 Days (N)		Obama Press
	627	528	50 SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		*Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* ★★★ (1986, Science Fiction)					The Circuit	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52 MTV	Mom & Dad	After	Canada's Next Top Model		Fantasy Fact.	Nitro Circus	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	Vanity Insanity	Ad Persuasion	Ad Persuasion	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	56 FOOD	Chef at Home	Fresh-Anna	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Iron Chef America		Ultimate Recipe Showdown		Opening Soon
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Keeping Up	Foot in Grave	All About George (N)		Driven-Vision	Supernatural	Poltergeist
	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	100 Sexiest Stars		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	Poule-oeufs or	Marché	Collection (N) (SC)		Nos étés (HDTV) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Medium "Raising Cain"		Medium		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums
	300	601	301 M1	(6:45) *Blades of Glory* (2007, Comedy)			Tracey Ullman	*The Mist* ★★ (2007, Horror) Thomas Jane.				*Fracture*
	305	612	306 PIX	*Soldier's Story*	(7:20) *The Boys Club* (1997, Drama)			*The Bone Collector* ★★ (1999, Suspense), Angelina Jolie				*Beefcake*

critics' corner

Blades of Glory
Whatever it takes, right? Will Ferrell and Jon Heder star as Chazz and Jimmy, two former skaters who were banned from singles competition. In order to get back in the game, they partner up to compete in the pairs competition. Now if only they actually liked each other ... . Will Arnett, Jenna Fischer, Craig T. Nelson and William Fichtner co-star, with pro skater Scott Hamilton as a sports anchor. 6:45 PM on M1

Lie to Me
Pass the kid gloves and the Kevlar vest. In this new episode, The Lightman Group becomes involved in the touchy case of a policeman (guest star Martin Papazian, "24") who shot a teenager. If that weren't enough to deal with, the firm is also being sued by investors for botching the recovery of money they lost in a Ponzi scheme. Tim Roth and Kelli Williams star in "Undercover." 8 PM on GTV

Julia swears like a sailor?

Get Julia Roberts a bar of soap. At a Film Society of Lincoln Center event honouring Tom Hanks in NYC Monday, the Duplicity star, 41, dropped the F-bomb several times, usmagazine.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Jesus rides on Madonna's fame?

CAREER Marc Jacobs has reportedly joined the campaign for Madonna's toy boy, Jesus Luz to stay in the country, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

According to a New York Post source, Jacobs "wrote a letter of support for Jesus' work permit" to allow him to stay in the country. "Marc campaigned for Jesus, saying he is highly talented and a necessity to the label."

So maybe all those rumours about Jesus starring with Madonna in the new Louis Vuitton campaign are true after all then?

If not, at least he has the new Dolce & Gabbana menswear campaign to fall back on, while persistent rumours float around that he only got that gig thanks to Madonna's connections.

A source told the Post: "All these fashion lines are hiring Jesus as a favour to Madonna. As long as he can legally work in the U.S., they can be together."

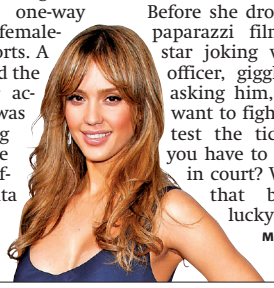
However, Madonna's rep said she's "not at all involved in managing the career of Jesus Luz. His Dolce job was arranged through his agents," and Madge hadn't asked anyone to help him.

According to Gatecrasher, Luz's fellow male models aren't so sure. At a recent catwalk event, "None of the other models would talk to Jesus or even look at him," a source says. "They were gossiping like catty girls about how they couldn't wait for his career to fizzle out."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cop shows Alba no mercy

LEGAL Actress Jessica Alba was pulled over by police in California last Friday for driving in the wrong direction down a one-way street, femalefirst.co.uk reports. A cop approached the Fantastic Four actress after she was spotted driving in the opposite way to the traffic flow in Santa Monica.



Alba reportedly tried to talk her way out of being reprimanded for the blunder — but police still issued her with a ticket.

Before she drove away, paparazzi filmed the star joking with the officer, giggling and asking him, "So if I want to fight it (contest the ticket), do you have to show up in court? Wouldn't that be your lucky day?"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Liam coping well, pal says

PEOPLE Liam Neeson "is doing extremely well" after his wife Natasha Richardson's death last month, the actor's pal, Aidan Quinn, tells usmagazine.com.

"He's very grateful for all the love and support he's gotten from across the globe and from so many people," Quinn said. "He's got a great family and a great support system of friends, and they're all doing as well as expected under the circumstances."

Neeson's two sons, Micheal, 13, and Daniel, 12, are also "doing amazingly well," Quinn added. "I think these things take a long time to probably sink in. There's no timetable for it."

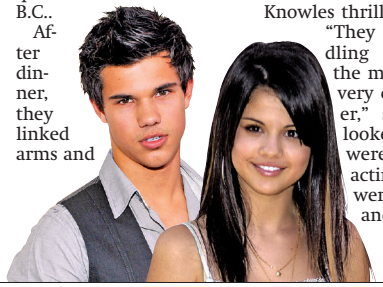
GETTY IMAGES

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Selena and Taylor's romance?

RUMOUR Selena Gomez and Taylor Lautner stepped out together in Vancouver over the weekend, sparking rumours that the Disney star and the Twilight hunk are more than just friends, people.com reports.

When they had a break from filming — him New Moon and her Ramona and Beezus — Lautner, 17, picked up Gomez, 16, at her hotel Saturday, and headed for dinner at the upscale Cactus Club in Coquitlam, B.C..



After dinner, they linked arms and walked to a nearby movie theatre to see the Beyoncé Knowles thriller Obsessed.

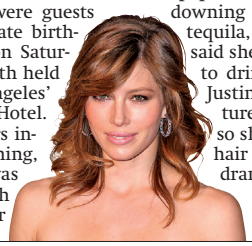
"They were cuddling throughout the movie and sat very close together," says an onlooker. "(They were) definitely acting like they were boyfriend and girlfriend."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

JT forces tequila binge?

PARTYING Justin Timberlake forced girlfriend Jessica Biel to down shots of alcohol at the weekend, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The pop heartthrob and the actress were guests at two separate birthday parties on Saturday night, both held in Los Angeles' Thompson Hotel.



A few hours into the evening, Biel, 27, was ready to ditch alcohol for soft drinks, but 28-year-old Timberlake wanted to carry on drinking alcohol.

One fellow reveller told the New York Daily News newspaper: "Everyone was downing shots of tequila, but Jessica said she didn't want to drink anymore. Justin good-naturedly insisted, so she pulled her hair back and drank up."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Spears' boyfriend OK after accident

CRASH Good news for Casey Aldridge: Doctors at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Miss., said they plan to move the 19-year-old boyfriend of Jamie Lynn Spears out of the intensive care unit as early as Monday, a source close to the family tells People.

"They said it was borderline whether he needed surgery or not," says the source, "but they've taken some scans and see no further damage."

Aldridge, the father of Spears' 10-month-old daughter Maddie, has been hospitalized with a head injury that he suffered when he flipped his F-250 pickup truck on the driver's side on a two-lane road in Louisiana Sunday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Heidi loves married life

MARRIAGE Heidi Montag is so thrilled about being married to Spencer Pratt that she can't stop Twittering about it.

On Sunday — the day after the couple's wedding — she posted several updates, including "Watching movies and relaxing — this has been the best day as a married woman."

And the next morning, she posted "Wow, what a morning! Waking up with my husband is beyond words! I'm so excited I'm really married! Forever!"

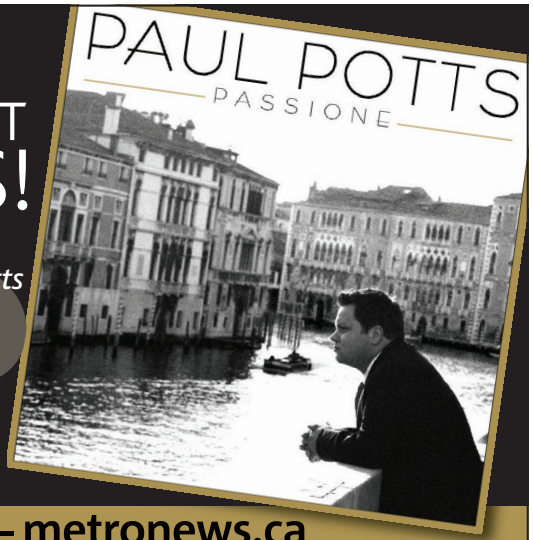
METRO WORLD NEWS

Dreams do come true...

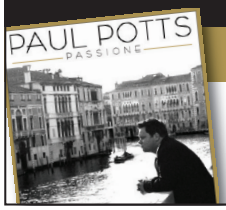
YOU CAN **WIN** A CHANCE TO MEET PAUL POTTS!

You and a guest can win a chance to meet singing sensation Paul Potts at an intimate wine tasting event in Toronto on Friday, May 1st.

Churchill Cellars Ltd.



AS SEEN ON YouTube *Paul Potts, singing sensation and 'Britain's Got Talent' winner returns with his brand new album PASSIONE.*



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hmv

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metro

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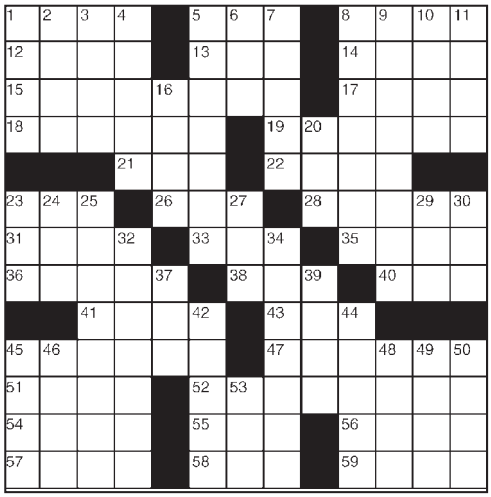
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Dodge model
5 Luncheonette order
8 Open a crack
12 Fork option
13 Bruce or Brenda
14 Glazier's sheet
15 Economic saves
17 Pocket bread
18 All over the place
19 Steering lever
21 Roulette bet
22 Impale
23 Cauldron
26 Family room
28 Hotel offering
31 Historic times
33 Clergyman's address
35 See 34-Down
36 Anxiety
38 Durable wood
40 Pair on stage
41 Easter symbol
43 CSA soldier
45 Rancher
47 Vacillate
51 Botanical angle
52 Infallibly problem-free
54 Kelly or Wilder
55 Army member
56 Shrek is one
57 Make — meet
58 Shaft of light
59 Snatched

Crossword down

1 Scepter toppers
2 Castle protection
3 Depilatory brand
4 Hammock occupant
5 Screw-up
6 Hindrance
7 Criteria
8 Clap
9 Con
10 Initial stake
11 Caboose's position
16 As yet unpaid
20 "Monty Python" opener
23 Shooter ammo
24 Assoc.
25 Nature's way of hastening a flight
27 Modern (Prefix)
29 Greek cross
30 Id counterpart
32 Horses' housing
34 With 35-Across, 1927 melody
37 Latin 101 word
39 Howard of musicals
42 Considerably
44 Muddle with drink
45 "Face/Off" actor
46 The yoke's on them
48 Palm type
49 Frizzy do
50 Hebdomad
53 Santa —, Calif.

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

					8		5	
4	9				7	6		
	6		2			1		
	3			5	4		9	
9								3
	1		9	2			6	
		1			9		2	
		7	5				1	4
	8		4					

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

M	A	K	E		A	R	M	
A	U	N	T		B	O	O	
C	R	O	S	S	B	O	W	
F	A	T		P	F	T		P
			C	R	Y		G	A
D	O	W	R	Y		F	A	N
O	H	I	O		F	A	D	
M	O	N	S	T	E	R		B
			S	O	W		H	U
F	R	O	W	N		C	O	G
I	A	V	A		C	R	O	S
E	T	A	L		H	O	E	
W	F	I	K		I	C	Y	

C	H	A	P					
R	O	B	E					
O	Y	E	R					
P	S	A	I	M				
F	A	N	F	A	R	E		
I	C	O	N					
B	R	E	E	D				
H	U	E						
C	O	G		S	H	E		
C	R	O	S	S	C	U	T	
H	O	E		P	U	M	A	
I	C	Y		A	M	P	S	

2	1	8	4	7	6	5	9	3
3	7	5	1	9	2	6	8	4
9	4	6	3	5	8	2	1	7
4	2	9	5	8	7	1	3	6
7	5	1	6	4	3	8	2	9
6	8	3	2	1	9	7	4	5
5	3	7	9	2	1	4	6	8
8	9	2	7	6	4	3	5	1
1	6	4	8	3	5	9	7	2

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Emerald Risotto

INGREDIENTS:

5 cups (1.25 L) vegetable stock, or 4 tbsp (60 ml) vegetable bouillon powder
5 tbsp (75 ml) white wine
1 pack baby spinach
4 tbsp (60 ml) virgin olive oil
1 small onion
2 cloves garlic
1 3/4 cups (425 ml) risotto rice
Salt and black pepper
Whole nutmeg for grating

METHOD:

1. Bring stock to boil in pot, or stir bouillon powder into 5 cups (1.25 L) boiling water. Add wine, reduce heat and simmer.
2. Rinse spinach leaves, chop roughly and set aside.
3. Heat oil in large pan or wok. Peel and finely chop onion and garlic and fry gently until soft but not brown, 2 minutes. Then add rice and stir-fry until grains are translucent and coated with oil.
4. Add ladleful of stock, adjust heat to maintain gentle boil and stir until liquid is mostly absorbed. Keep adding stock, a ladleful at a time, and stir constantly until the rice is almost cooked, 15 minutes.
5. Add spinach and more stock and boil, stirring, until rice is cooked — risotto rice should retain a bite, but mixture should be of a soft, dropping consistency.
6. Season to taste with salt, pepper and some freshly grated nutmeg. Serve straight from pan.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Strengthen your position by pointing out your leadership skills. A twist of fate damages morale. A woman won't work due to a quarrel.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A wild person changes your mind. A sympathetic friend is available to promote your skills. See the humour when dealing with a faltering fool.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A new task is given to an enthusiastic job-hunter. Be ready to call about a machine. A loving guy is liberated after enduring terrible trouble.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Something's gained when career plans stall. An illogical loss causes resentment and retaliation. An authority searches for a remedy.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Give due respect to an attendant. A new friend causes an inconvenience. A reality check disturbs others.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Deception interferes with your sense of purpose. Make amends by being honest. A health scare causes a discussion.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A frightened person's character discourages attachment. Open your mind to see a different side of things. A clever accuser makes the rounds.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A man reveals his bad habits. A woman has a significant dream. Do the right thing to comfort and inspire others.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A strange form of insecurity may arise. Explain yourself when gossip incites unusual reactions. Joyful news magically appears.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Get ready to follow your dreams. You'll be eager to move forward. Family issues are not your fault.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Ruthlessness shouldn't be indulged. Restrain your temper with an overbearing person. Nostalgia grows when a younger person falls in love.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A chirpy female's ironic remark defeats a plan. A lover's information may cause confusion. A miserable situation results from sadness.

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- Bluetooth® hands-free connectivity
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EX model shown

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CITY: 7.3 L/100KM 39 MPG

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EDITOR'S PICK LIST[˜]

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- Tilt adjustable steering column

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EX model shown

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CITY: 10.6 L/100KM 27 MPG

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Crash Test Rating
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EDITOR'S PICK LIST[˜]

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